Board of County Commissioners
Leon County, Florida
Regular Meeting
January 26, 2010

The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida met in regular session at 3:00 p.m. with Chairman Bob Rackleff presiding. Present were Commissioners John Dailey, Akin Akinyemi, Cliff Thaell, Bill Proctor, Bryan Desloge, and Jane Sauls. Also attending were County Administrator Parwez Alam, County Attorney Herb Thiele, Finance Director David Reid and Board Secretary Rebecca Vause.

The Invocation was provided by Pastor Matt Campbell, Oak City Assembly of God Church. Commissioner Sauls then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

- Chairman Rackleff presented a Resolution to Erin Dahlen of Montford Middle School, recognizing her Honorable Mention distinction from the Florida Department of Health for its 2010 Youth Radon Poster Contest.

- Chairman Rackleff presented a Proclamation acknowledging the 50th Year Celebration of the Leon County Humane Society, 1960 to 2010, for its "Legacy of Compassion.

- Mary Barley, Working Well Director, presented the "Shooting Star Award" (its highest honor) to the County's "Wellness Works" Team.
  - Ernie Pierre, Human Resources, accepted the plaque on behalf of the County and the Wellness Team.

- Peggy Brady, Council on Culture & Arts (COCA) Executive Director, gave a presentation on the "State of the Arts."
  - Chairman Rackleff stated that the Commission remains committed to supporting cultural organizations as they are important to the quality of life and key to economic development.

CONSENT:

Commissioner Akinyemi moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls, to move the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item 7, which was pulled for further discussion. The motion carried 7-0.

1. Approval of Minutes: December 8, 2009 Regular Meeting

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the minutes of the December 8, 2009 Regular meeting.

2. Approval of Payment of Bills and Vouchers Submitted for January 26, 2010 and Pre-Approval of Payment of Bills and Vouchers for the Period of January 27 through February 8, 2010.

The Board approved Option 1: Approve Payment of Bills and Vouchers Submitted for January 26, 2010 and Pre-Approve Payment of Bills and Vouchers for the Period of January 27 through February 8, 2010: $5,751,180

3. **Approval to Submit 2009/2010 Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services Matching Grant Applications**

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the submittal of the 2009/2010 Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services matching grant applications.

4. **Acceptance of Asset Disbursement from the Tallahassee Area Convention & Visitors Bureau in the Amount of $90,509.**

The Board approved Options 1 & 2: 1) Accept asset disbursement from the Tallahassee Area Convention & Visitors Bureau in the amount of $90,509, and 2) Approve the associated Budget Amendment Request in the amount of $55,054 for the purpose of tourism promotion.

5. **Acceptance of a Conservation Easement from Miccosukee United Methodist Church**

The Board approved Option 1: Approve and accept for recording the conservation easement from Miccosukee United Methodist Church for the Miccosukee United Methodist Church Type A Site Plan Project.

6. **Approval of Establishing a Salary Budget for Blueprint 2000**

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the Resolution and Associated Budget Amendment establishing a salary budget for a Blueprint 2000 Legal Assistant position.

7. **Acceptance of the Healthcare Advisory Board FY 08/09 Annual Report**

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

Commissioner Thaell stated that he wanted to highlight some of the significant accomplishments of the Healthcare Advisory Board (HAB) and thanked all the members for their remarkable commitment to the health of the community. He requested that the Board consider an agenda item to add a member to the HAB which represents the mental health care community.

Commissioner Thaell moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Akinyemi, to approve Option 1, as amended: Accept the Healthcare Advisory Board FY 08/09 Annual Report and ask staff to bring back an agenda item to consider the addition of a representative from the mental health care community. The motion carried 7-0.

Chairman Rackleff pointed out that the County's primary healthcare programs, such as Bond Center, Neighborhood Health Services, and WeCare serve thousands of residents at a very cost effective rate and noted the importance for continued funding to maintain these programs.

8. **Authorization to Submit "The Big Read" Grant Application**

The Board approved Option 1: Authorize the submission of "The Big Read" Grant Application.

9. **Adoption of a Resolution Initiating the Wildflower Conservation Pilot Program**

The Board approved Option 1: Adopt the Resolution initiating the Wildflower Pilot Program.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDAED ITEMS:
(3-minute limit per speaker; there will not be any discussion by the Commission)

- Chairman Rackleff confirmed that there were no speakers.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

10. Consideration of Funding the Palmer Munroe Community Center in the Amount of $150,000

County Administrator Alam provided an overview of the issue. He stated that staff recommended that the proposed $150,000 funding come from the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) budget. He also recommended that the Board approve a one-time expenditure of $25,000 to partner with the Askew School of Public Administration at Florida State University to assist in addressing FY 2010 Board Retreat Priority #4, relating to recidivism and re-entry. A detailed report was provided in the Board's Agenda Packet entitled "Palmer Munroe Youth Center Final Concept Report, December 9, 2009".

City Commissioner Andrew Gillum thanked the Commission for the opportunity to appear and present the item for consideration. He asked that those individuals attending in support of the project stand and be recognized.

Commissioner Gillum provided an overview and summary of the proposal for the Palmer-Munroe Teen Center. His presentation highlighted:

- Over the past five years, juvenile arrests in the City have increased by 53%;
- Numerous community meetings, dialogues and forums have been held to discuss gang related activities and what can be done to curb this activity;
- Taxpayers spend on average $300 a night per child in incarceration;
- Between 50-80 percent of those detained will recidivate within three years, and
- State spends $42,000 annually on every child committed to residential correctional facilities as compared to $2,100 in preventative activities.

Commissioner Gillum further explained that:

- Palmer Munroe is an 11,000 square foot facility covering 3.96 acres;
- Over $1 million in renovations recently completed by City;
- Proposed activities provided at the Center include: job skills training, peer and career counseling, dance, arts, music, athletic assessment, college prep, life skills development including sex education, conflict resolution, anger management, etc.
- Would be the hub of Restorative Justice Activity.

The following individuals spoke in support of the establishment of the Teen and Restorative Justice Center at the Palmer-Munroe Community Center:

- Justice Jones and Asha McCray. Walker-Ford Community Teen Center;
- Dale Landry, President, NAACP;
- Joe Thomas, Walker-Ford Community Center;
- Kelly Otte, Executive Director, Oasis Center for Women and Girls;
- Bill Law, President, Tallahassee Community College, and
- Nancy Daniels, Leon County Public Defender

Commissioner Gillum argued that while the program will cost money, he suggested that the investment would result in savings on the back end. He allowed that the process would be

reviewed in a couple of years and if the anticipated results are not realized the program would be re-evaluated. He requested a three year commitment from the County and funding of $150,000 to go forward. Commissioner Gillum noted that he would make the same request at the City Commission Meeting to be held at their next meeting.

This concluded Commissioner Gillum's presentation and he yielded to Commissioner Desloge, who in turn applauded Commissioner Gillum for his efforts to bring this endeavor forward.

Commissioner Desloge reminded the Board that youth services/recidivism had been identified by the Board as a priority at its most recent Retreat. He shared that a huge cross section of the community had been involved in this process and a plan has been developed that he was confident could work. He acknowledged that he was firmly behind the concept.

Commissioner Proctor expressed that his support was tempered as he was concerned about the budget proposed for the facility. He asked that the numbers be modified to provide more programming funds for young people. Commissioner Gillum responded that the overwhelming majority of services would be provided by staff and community partners and he anticipates a full and robust array of youth programming, as identified in the agenda item. He offered that the plan attempts to be innovative with limited resources.

Commissioner Proctor inquired why the Leon County School Board was absent from the proposal. Dee Crumpler, Leon County School Board Member, assured Commissioner Proctor that the School Board had been involved throughout the entire process and was looking to address the transportation component of the project, (which is estimated to equal approximately $300,000 in supported commitment).

Commissioner Proctor established with Commissioner Gillum that the FAMU Criminal Justice Institute's involvement was anticipated; however the relationship continues to be worked out. Commissioner Gillum added that eventually a Request for Proposals (RFP) would be issued for the continued operation of the Center and it is his hope that they will engage at that point.

Chairman Rackleff confirmed with County Administrator Alam that funding would continue for three years; however Mr. Alam noted that staff recommends that funding be contingent upon the support of the other referenced agencies. There was discussion regarding Chairman Rackleff's concerns on the lack of County representation on the Governing Board.

Chairman Rackleff ascertained that the County would share the facility's maintenance and security expenses; however he expressed much concern that the County would be expected to pay rent.

Commissioner Akinyemi voiced his support for the concept and offered that the restorative justice center would take away a good portion of the juvenile justice system workload. He noted that the center's goal to divert kids from the juvenile justice system into a more supportive, nurturing environment was very consistent with the direction and goal of the PSCC. He spoke to the use of PSCC funds to support the endeavor and emphasized that he was not speaking for the PSCC. He announced that a special meeting of the PSCC has been scheduled for February 11, 2010 to discuss this issue. Commissioner Akinyemi clarified that the PSCC has worked to establish goals and objectives and expressed reluctance to divert funds at this time. He proposed that the PSCC contribute $100,000 and the $50,000 additional dollars come from the fund balance. He added that subsequent year funding could be obtained through the CHSP process or through the County's budget process as a line item. Commissioner Akinyemi also concurred with Chairman Rackleff's comments regarding the County's participation in the advisory board and he too was reluctant to pay rent.

Commissioner Dailey thanked Commissioner Gillum for his leadership and voiced support for the project. He stated that it was more appropriate for the City to take the first action of support and then be brought back to the County for consideration. He opined that the School Board's participation was crucial and that there should be some type of formal communication between all local government entities. Commissioner Dailey also deemed very important to give the PSCC an opportunity to meet and make a recommendation in writing.

Commissioner Dailey continued his comments with concerns about the budget. He submitted that the County was anticipating a $7.5 to $10 million deficit in next year's budget. He expressed concern that due to the looming State budget deficit, funding partners would not be able to continue the commitment after the Session and suggested a delay until the end of the legislative session. He stated that although he wanted to move forward with a strong commitment to the project, he was uncomfortable with approval of a major budgeting issue outside of the budget cycle, especially without a recommendation from the PSCC. He summarized his support for a delay on this issue by providing that 1) the County would make this issue the number one priority discussion for 2010/2010 in June; 2) indicates the County's commitment as an additional $225,000 has been placed for discussion purposes; 3) gives other participating agencies an opportunity to work through their issues; 4) allows the City to take first formal action of approval; 5) gives School Board time to address the transportation issues; 6) provides time for the PSCC to make recommendation on use of their funds, and 7) gives the Department of Juvenile Justice an opportunity to "survive the legislative session".

Commissioner Dailey moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls, to continue this item until the June 2010 budget workshops.

Commissioner Desloge acknowledged the valid concerns expressed, however did not want to postpone and lose momentum. He argued that the project should move forward with clear contingencies stated..

Commissioner Desloge offered a substitute motion, duly seconded by Commissioner Thaell, to approve contingent upon the following: 1) rent should not be paid; 2) remove Option 3; 3) City, DJJ and PSCC contributing first $100,000, and 4) each funding entity would have two representatives on the Governing Board.

Commissioner Thaell stated that although he concurred with issues raised by fellow Commissioners, he maintained that these concerns can be worked out. He emphasized the importance of the program's ability to show over the first three years, a real reduction in government's contribution to the operation of a DJJ facility. He added that the issue of rent was critical, but that he would vote for the substitute motion with the understanding that the issues noted be resolved.

Commissioner Sauls in her questioning of transporting the teens to and from the center established with Ms. Daniels that StarMetro has been involved in all meetings and have offered to fund bus passes. Commissioner Sauls informed the Board that her vote would be contingent on all agencies, including the PSCC, support. She concluded that she would not support paying a lease or rent, but agreed to shared maintenance.

There continued to be discussion among Board members on this topic.

Chairman Rackleff remarked that the need for this type of program was irrefutable. He articulated that he wholeheartedly endorsed the approach and thanked Commissioner Gillum

for bring it forward. He opined that the motion on the floor was sensible and provided for a good, fiscally responsible approach for a brand new program.

The substitution motion carried 7-0.

Chairman Rackleff announced at 5:45 p.m. that the Board would take a five minute recess and reconvened at 5:50 p.m.

11. Acceptance of Oral Report from the County's Federal Lobbying Firm, Patton Boggs

Phil Bangert, the County's primary lobbyist and partner with Patton Boggs, provided a report on federal lobbying activities. His report focused on three points: 1) Impact of recent Massachusetts special election on Congress; 2) Upcoming State of Union Address by President Obama and proposed budget, and 3) Federal spending and proposed freezes. Mr. Bangert stated that a report on issues resulting from the President's Address that impact the County would be provided.

Commissioner Proctor expressed concern regarding the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding the expansion of first amendment rights to corporations and asked Mr. Bangert to comment on this topic. Commissioner Proctor suggested that the Board go on record with a Resolution citing its disdain for the Court's interpretation. Mr. Bangert then responded to Commissioner Proctor's inquiries regarding the relocation site for the fairgrounds and Woodville Highway projects. Commissioner Proctor opined that the Board should identify new projects/new ideas for the lobbying firm to advocate for.

Commissioner Proctor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls, to direct staff to bring back an agenda item at the February 23, 2010 Board meeting to review the County's legislative priorities. The motion carried 7-0.

Ken Morris, Legislative Affairs Coordinator, noted that the Board at its workshop in October 2009, set its state and federal legislative priorities. He reminded Commissioners that Woodville Highway is the County's number one request in Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); however, national delays have impeded this request. Mr. Morris added that the Forest Service is contemplating a land swap, which may open up an opportunity for the County to purchase the flea market tract; which would enable the relocation of the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Akinyemi inquired about transportation funding opportunities and the impact of the federal spending freeze anticipated to be proposed by the President. Mr. Bangert responded that large dollars for new transportation projects will not be likely until the next reauthorization and offered that continued collaboration with the National Association of Counties and the local congressional delegation on County priorities was key in dealing with deficit issues and competing priorities for federal spending.

Chairman Rackleff thanked Mr. Bangert for the report and their efforts on the County's behalf at the federal level. He also noted that over the past eight years, in large part to lobbying efforts, the County has received almost $20 million in federal funding.

Commissioner Sauls moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge, to approve Option 1: Accept oral report from the County's federal lobbying firm, Patton Boggs. The motion carried 7-0.

12. Acceptance of the FY 08/09 Tallahassee-Leon County Economic Development Council Annual Report and Approval of the FY 09/10 Economic Development Council Agreement in the Amount of $199,500.

Commissioner Desloge moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls, to continue this item to the February 9, 2010 Board meeting. The motion carried 7-0.

ADD-ON ITEM: (this item taken up under General Business)

13. Consideration of Adoption of a Proposed Resolution in Support of the Acquisition of Conservation Easements Within the River Ridge Plantation by the State of Florida "Florida Forever" Program.

Commissioner Akinyemi moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge, to approve Option 1: Adopt the proposed Resolution in support of the acquisition of conservation easements within the River Ridge Plantation by the State of Florida "Florida Forever" Program.

Commissioner Thaell established with Don Lanham, Grants Coordinator, that this acquisition could strengthen the county's application efforts to acquire the Phipps property as they are contiguous.

The motion carried 7-0.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDAED ITEMS
(3-minute limit per speaker; Commission may discuss issues that are brought forth by speakers)

- Chairman Rackleff confirmed that there were no speakers.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

County Administrator (Parwez Alam)

- Recalled that the Board had established a Leon County Haiti Relief Fund, which had collected $1,870. He shared that several organizations were considered for receipt of the money; however, it had been learned that Dr. Henry Lewis, FAMU Pharmacy, would be taking medicines and pharmaceuticals to Haiti. Mr. Alam requested Board direction on which organization the funds should be directed.
  - *Commissioner Desloge moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Akinyemi, to distribute the $1,870 in the Haiti Relief Fund to Dr. Lewis. The motion carried 7-0.*
  - Commissioner Akinyemi asked how the fund could be better publicized. Mr. Alam shared that Public Works and Clerk of Courts staff had collected monies individually, which may have affected the amount collected through this opportunity.

County Attorney (Herb Thiele)

- None

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Commissioner Proctor

- Thanked staff for an outstanding Budget Workshop.
- Noted the exchange of ideas and the debate regarding the Palmer Munroe Community Center and thanked the Chairman for his leadership.

Commissioner Desloge

- *Commissioner Desloge moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Thaell, to direct staff to prepare an agenda item for discussion to consider County participation (share equally in risk) in SBA 7(a) loans for small businesses to help encourage lending in the County. The motion carried 7-0.*
- *Commissioner Desloge moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls, to ask staff to bring back an agenda item to include suggestions on the best way to have Board representation on the Educational Facilities Authority (EFA).*
  - County Attorney Thiele advised that for a Commissioner to be a member of the EFA Board would most likely constitute a "dual office holding" and would not be allowed. Commissioner Desloge asked if this could be done through an "advisory role". Mr. Thiele stated that he would bring back some options.
  - Chairman Rackleff commented that there were many issues to be resolved involving the EFA, but this was a move in the right direction.
  - Commissioner Akinyemi requested a copy of the power point presentation shared at the meeting.
  - *The motion carried 7-0.*

Commissioner Sauls

- None

Commissioner Akinyemi

- None

Commissioner Thaell

- Requested staff to look into flooding situation at the intersection of Buck Lake and Benjamin Chaires at the Crawley property in regards to replacing culverts.
- Shared that Baum Lane residents are concerned about their road and have requested the County's assistance in rebuilding the road. He noted that the residents would be responsible for the cost; the County would make repairs.

Commissioner Dailey

- Thanked staff for their hard work in preparation for the Budget Workshop.
- Thanked Tony Parks and the Public Works staff for their efforts during the latest rain event.
- Requested staff to bring back a status report on the flooding situation on McLeod Drive (specifically 4049 and 4053) and Lakeside Drive (particularly the easements behind the resident's houses).
- Announced that he was the Board's representative on the 2nd Congressional District Healthcare Advisory Council and advised that they will be holding a meeting on February 19, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. He requested staff provide recommendations to be brought to the meeting.
- Requested staff prepare an agenda item for the Board to consider a Resolution supporting the Florida Forever Program which would be presented to the County's legislative delegation.

Commissioner Rackleff

- *Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Sauls, to revise the Board's Agenda to accurate reflect that a "Resolution", not "Proclamation" was presented to Erin Dahlen for the Radon Poster Contest. The motion carried 7-0.*
- Shared that he had attended the Tallahassee Builders Association (TBA) Luncheon and in his remarks to the TBA stated that the Board was committed to sustained employment and spending that would assist them in their endeavor to sell homes.
- Thanked Public Works for their response to the recent flooding situations.

RECEIPT AND FILE: none

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Bob Rackleff, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

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