

The Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida, met in special session on the above date at the Parks and Recreation Office for the purpose of conducting a Goal Setting Workshop. The Chairman called the meeting to order. Commissioner Fowler led in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Commissioners: Vicki Phillips, Chairman; Brad Thorpe, First Vice Chairman; Roger Batchelor, Second Vice Chairman; Jim Fowler and Gary Bartell
Attorneys: Larry M. Haag and Richard W. Wesch
Administrators: Gary Kuhl and Gary Herndon
Deputy Clerk: Joanne B. Mishou and Elicia Kuhl
Department Directors: Heidi Denis, Community Services
Gary Maidhof, Development Services
Tad Stone, Public Safety
Ken Saunders, Public Works

1999 GOAL SETTING WORKSHOP

Community Services

1. **Library Funding Issues.** Mr. Kuhl stated that Library Services is at a point of trying to keep a balanced budget as well as meet needs within the library system. Items discussed included:
 - The possible alternatives for library services funding would be to cut services or increase millage.
 - The need for the electorate to vote on any increase in the library millage.
 - The use of impact fees on commercial property to raise more funds. Mr. Maidhof stated that the Impact Fee Study consultant anticipates a final report within nine months.
 - The possibility of a joint library venture with the School Board and perhaps beginning with a pilot project.
 - The probability that the technology of the library system will be changing. Mr. Kuhl stated that Ms. Denis is preparing a web site for Citrus County.

Directive: Mr. Kuhl to contact Pete Kelly, the School Board Superintendent, and a college representative regarding the possibility of a joint use/joint venture of county and school libraries.

Directive: The Chairman advised the Board that Mr. Haag is preparing a letter to respond to citizens regarding the status of the new homestead exemption.

2. Park Construction Status

- a. **Ft. Island Gulf Beach Expansion.** Mr. Kuhl advised the expansion of Ft. Island Gulf Beach is limited, due to the potential archaeological site located on the Williams tract.

Mrs. Denis stated beach expansion would not be to expand the beach area, but only to stabilize it, to expand parking, to correct drainage deficiencies, and to provide an additional picnic table on the Williams tract; that it would not disturb the archaeological site. It was noted that the \$30,000 for the consultant would include obtaining the necessary project permits.

Messrs. Kuhl and Herndon explained that funds from the impact fees in that park district could be used, and that the Felburn Park is the only other park site in that particular impact fee district.

Directive: Table the Beach Expansion project and review it in the next budget cycle.

- b. **Ft. Island Gulf Beach Renourishment.** Mrs. Denis stated that the consultant fee of \$5,000 would include obtaining the necessary permits and inspecting types of sand.

Consensus: Proceed with the renourishment project at Ft. Island Gulf Beach.

- c. **Homosassa Area Recreation Park.** Mr. Kuhl stated that the Board is awaiting grants to assist with funding for this Park.
- d. **Holden Community Park.** Mr. Kuhl stated construction of this facility was complete.
- e. **Central Ridge District Park.** Mr. Kuhl stated seven acres had been cleared and are now ready for construction of ballfields.
- f. **Beverly Hills Community Park.** Mr. Kuhl reported that with the additional facilities, a summer league is ready to begin.

Development Services

3. **Permitting System Improvements (GIS, Hansen Systems).** Mr. Maidhof distributed maps delineating the areas that have been entered into the GIS system. Community Development and Building Division staff members along with casual laborers are working on the input for the data system.

Mr. Kuhl stated that the question of how the data will be maintained and the determination of how parcel splits will be tracked are issues presently being addressed by the Property Appraiser and the County.

Mr. Kuhl stated that funds were budgeted by the DDS for this project in this fiscal year, and staff will need to coordinate with the Property Appraiser to insure sufficient funds are budgeted in the next fiscal year.

Directive: Prepare a letter to the Property Appraiser within the next few weeks to address parcel splits. Mr. Kuhl may request the Board to appoint a Commissioner to work with Staff.

4. **Land Development Code Status.** Mr. Kuhl stated that staff is progressing with changes to the LDC to make it a user-friendly document.
5. **Impact Fee Status.** Mr. Maidhof advised that the consultant would report on the Impact Fee Study within the next nine months.

Mr. Maidhof advised that once the Impact Fee Study is established in an ordinance amendment, items that were not included can be reviewed and submitted for amendment and be funded with impact fees as well as any future Impact Fee Study. Mr. Maidhof

suggested that the Board be on a schedule to review the Impact Fee Study every three to five years.

Commissioner Bartell questioned the boundaries of the impact fee districts and how it limited the use of funds that may have been needed in other areas. Mr. Maidhof stated that due to case law and changes over the last ten years, there would be mechanisms available to allow—in some instances—the flow of impact fees from one area to another.

Public Works

6. Road Projects

- ❖ Forest Ridge Boulevard Extension, Croft Road Improvements, and Transportation Engineering Services. Mr. Kuhl referred to a recent public hearing on Croft Road and indicated that the minutes from July 23, 1991 summarized the public reaction and the Board voted “to reject the recommendation of Henigar and Ray to construct Forest Ridge Boulevard.”

The Chairman added that the Forest Ridge Boulevard Extension was removed by motion at a 1992 public hearing on the Citrus Hills II DRI this road was removed. Mr. Kuhl advised that Mr. Saunders’ staff will be recommending that Traffic engineering services be used rather than hiring a permanent individual. Mr. Saunders has developed a work outline that would include computer modeling, FSUTMS program.

Commissioner Batchelor opposed the Forest Ridge Boulevard Extension prior to being elected to office, but believed now it would be the answer for Croft Road situation.

The Chairman advised that she may have to recuse herself depending on which road would be considered. It was noted that citizens have built homes based on decisions in 1991 and 1992 regarding the Forest Ridge Boulevard Extension.

Commissioner Bartell opposed the Forest Ridge Boulevard Extension due to previous citizen opposition and Board action, and did not believe it would help Croft Road.

Commissioner Thorpe stated that citizens on Croft Road were aware that it would be four laned and that the Board needed to review the facts the consultants would provide in order to make a decision.

Mr. Haag stated that the developer is another partner in this decision as a result of the public hearing process in 1991 in which the DRI was amended by resolution. The amendment changed a portion of Forest Ridge Boulevard, south of Fenway , from four lanes to two. Therefore, in order to make the boulevard four lanes, it would take a substantial amendment to the DRI, which is in the control of the developer, not the Board. Commissioner Batchelor stated that the developer would be willing to fund part of this project.

Directive: Mr. Saunders will present to the Board the selection of a Traffic Engineering firm and a list of projects, to include moving forward on the CIP timeframe for Croft Road.
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Mr. Kuhl stated that Dyer, Riddle, Mills & Precourt, Inc. is under contract to assist with the Super Wal-Mart evaluation.

- ❖ Procedure For Accepting/Improving Private Roads. Mr. Kuhl stated that the County has a procedure for the Limerock Road Paving Program; that citizens with private roads

find that it is too expensive to pave their private roads, and staff is open to suggestions on how to proceed.

Discussion ensued regarding the Special Assessment Districts through the Special Act. The citizens would prepare a petition, the County would pave the road, and then the County would be deeded the right-of-way so the County could maintain the road.

The Chairman expressed concerns regarding the draft ordinance on private roads and if the Board considers this policy staff will have to be increased or the work be done through private contractors. Mr. Haag felt this had arisen so few times a problem should not be created. In paving these private roads there is the need for rock, drainage, permits and ultimately the costs of the road never goes through the public hearing process. Chairman Phillips felt that there is no way to recover the costs of staff's time expended at the beginning of the project if it fails.

Commissioner Thorpe and other Commissioners agreed on the need for a user-friendly procedure so that it can be provided to the citizens.

Mr. Haag felt the problem is the petitioning process, explained language had been presented to the legislative delegation, but the County's State Representative had not allowed that amendment to go through.

Board members felt that in the interest of taxpayers, the County needed to plan for the future, that staff should look at paving limerock roads in order to override the costs of their maintenance. Additionally, criteria should be developed for citizens to pay a percentage of the costs when it is a benefit for both the citizen and the County. Mr. Saunders stated staff could prioritize the roads in the same manner as micro paving, etc.

Directive: Develop a procedure for paving roads and maintaining limerock roads, as well as prioritizing limerock roads for paving.
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4. Water Quality

- ❖ ***Mandatory Connection Ordinance:*** Mr. Kuhl stated that the Board has given staff direction on this ordinance and staff will soon present it to the Board. Commissioner Bartell questioned the number of systems in the County that are not County-owned, and if owners of the public and private systems have been notified that the mandatory connection fee is county-wide. Mr. Saunders distributed a preliminary Master Plan for the water system.

Mr. Haag stated Board direction was to research whether they could do or modify a mandatory connection based upon the outstanding agreements and loans; that during the public hearing on Rockcrusher Road, he had advised the Board that the State Revolving Loan has mandatory connection language and that Summit states that language will be required by the grants that are available; that Board will need some type of mandatory connection. Additionally, he advised the staff will need guidance if the Board wishes to change the ordinance. Commissioners supported the ordinance as written, except for the timeframe and the payment period.

Directive: Ordinance will be presented to the Board with notification being 365 days, an adjustable interest rate, with financing of residential being five to ten years, and commercial being up to ten years; and advise other entities of the required

mandatory connection requirement; and to make an effort to find a word other than "mandatory," such as "compulsory."

- ❖ **Neighborhood Revitalization.** Mr. Kuhl stated that this grant would be presented at the next Board meeting, that there are no monetary penalties if the Board does not proceed with this project, as long as there are no funds expended, but if the Board chooses not to proceed; there will probably be point penalties. This grant will provide half of the money to proceed with a \$1.5 million project and the County should know by April if the grant is awarded. He advised staff will provide detailed information on January 26th.
- ❖ **Homosassa Project Update** - No comments were made.
- ❖ **Other Projects:**
 - **Chassahowitzka Water Quality Study** – Commissioner Bartell will provide names to Mr. Kuhl so they can be contacted regarding the Chassahowitzka area.
 - **Cooter Pond Sediment Removal Project** - No comments were made.
 - **Homosassa Southfork Water Quality Improvement Project** - Recommendations for specific sites to make improvements are forthcoming.
 - **Crystal River US 19 North Service Extension (Indian Waters Subdivision)** - No comments were made.
 - **Tsala Apopka Water Quality Project** - No comments were made.
 - **Hernando Area Service Extension** - No comments were made.
 - **Eastside of the County** - A Committee was formed to include citizens, SWFWMD, County Staff, University professionals. This Committee is working real well and will provide good suggestions.
- ❖ **Water/Sewer Assessment Districts:**
 - **Citrus Hills area** – Mr. Kuhl indicated that problems in this area were water pressure, line sizing and that there was no master plan. This area being handled through a MSBU type of assessment would be one consideration. There was concern expressed for those citizens that had just had wells put in and the costs incurred. Mr. Wesch stated that these wells could still be used for irrigation.

Jimmy Brooks, SWFWMD advised they can work with the County staff once specific areas are identified, and that citizens can be notified of any assessments or pending assessments for water/sewer lines when they apply to SWFWMD for a well construction permit.

Directive: Prepare a notice that would be sent to citizens in the Kensington area, advising them of the County's intent for a water system, prioritize other areas that need a water system, and agenda before the Board. Schedule this item separate from the Forest Ridge Boulevard item.

- ❖ **Florida Water** – Mr. Kuhl advised that at the Board's direction, staff contacted Florida Water regarding involvement in their systems. The costs of developing a financial analysis and other data needed to review those systems would be at a substantial cost. Staff requested direction on how the Board wants staff to proceed.

Directive: Prioritize, select one or two water systems, and discuss with Florida Water, then agenda for Board discussion.

The meeting was recessed at 11:08 A.M. and then reconvened at 11:37 A.M.

The Chairman opened the meeting for public comment on items already discussed.

Sumner Waite was asked to provide a list of his concerns to Mr. Kuhl so that staff could respond to him.

Jim Bitter: The Chairman advised that staff will follow-up on a letter to Carol Browner, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, regarding financial, clean up, and preservation assistance for County waterways that was discussed with the legislative delegation. Mr. Bitter stated that a "Save Our Rivers and Shores" bill was being presented in Congress.

Ray Daw, Morris Harvey, and Jim MacIntosh discussed costs and policies for road paving.

At noon the meeting was recessed, and then was reconvened at 1:30 PM

4. Solid Waste

- ❖ **Recycling Program.** Mr. Kuhl advised there are now 19 recycling centers, that the County is meeting 30% of the state recycling requirements, that recycling is now shifting more to a maintenance mode, and that there had been some talk about scaling back the recycling effort. Commissioner Batchelor felt the recycling director position could be eliminated and the maintenance function be shifted to the staff level. Short discussion. (IIB-220)

Directive: This subject to be brought forward during the budget workshop.

- ❖ **Franchising.** Mr. Kuhl recommended staying this year with one or two priorities: 1) county-wide water/sewer utilities, and 2) the Courthouse expansion project. He felt solid waste could be left in a status quo position this year since it is running smoothly and is in good financial shape. Commissioner Fowler was comfortable with putting it off for a year while the Board focuses on other more critical needs. Discussion ensued regarding potential traffic back-up problems on SR-44, landfill usage becoming stable rather than continuing to increase, the County being in a very good position at the landfill at this time, etc.

Directive: Hold off on Solid Waste Franchising for a year and bring back the issue this time next year.

Discussion continued regarding transfer stations; privatization; providing a contract that had the flexibility to allow a contractor to take trash to the Landfill or to a transfer station—whichever was the most economically feasible at a particular time; the Board having the freedom to look at alternatives and not be locked into a franchise that would eliminate alternatives; etc. (IIB-380/1:50 P.M.)

- ❖ **Transfer Station.** Mr. Kuhl explained that prior to hiring a solid waste consultant, the Board should determine whether to address a transfer station and if it would be just Recyclables, or look at other options. Extensive discussion followed Mr. Kuhl's opening remarks regarding topics along the lines of:

- how and in what direction to proceed,
- whether to open another cell or to transfer trash out of county,
- excavation of a new cell and expansion of the current cell,
- what to include in a request for proposal for a consultant study (such as the options of transfer stations, privatization, financial options);
- the current Landfill capacity being good for about five years;
- mandatory (compulsory) home pickup;
- the Board's not being prepared to proceed with a consultant due to questions of not knowing precisely what they wanted; etc. (IIIB-20/2:45 P.M.)

Directive: Prepare a *draft* Solid Waste RFP for Board review, consider setting a solid waste workshop on a day other than a Tuesday; check with Hernando and Marion County regarding their solid waste status/contract(s).

- ❖ **Debt & MSBU Fees.** Messrs. Kuhl and Herndon noted surpluses in these areas could be used for changing the debt situation for MSBU fees. Commissioners were inclined to use excess funds to reduce the debt. The Board was interested in knowing what portion of the cost at the Landfill was the debt service. Discussion.

Directive: Commissioner Bartell asked for an overview of tonnage, revenues, etc., with all to be shown on one sheet of paper.

4. **Aviation, Holden Park Access, and Future Land Acquisition.** Mr. Kuhl advised that if the Board extended the Inverness Airport runway it would result in substantial assistance from the State of Florida; if not extended, he understood that there would be little to no interest in FDOT of doing anything else at the airport. If extended, DOT would be willing to help purchase land.

Commissioner Fowler further explained this situation, noting that if the Board purchased the remaining 160 acres of the Holden family property, the Board then would be in a position to correct missteps made at Holden park, satisfy the FAA and FDOT, and allow sufficient room for a small industrial park next to US-41 and only about 20 miles from I-75. He advised the FDOT was enthusiastic about that idea and had been putting money into the Inverness Airport on the assumption that the County planned a 5,000 foot runway. He felt this would solve any problems at Holden Park, provide an airport with a 5,000' runway and a small industrial park, and enhance/protect investments at the Inverness Airport. If such a master plan was formulated showing items just mentioned, he advised it was possible that FDOT would fund the purchase of all the property and at end of ten years the County would start paying back its 25% portion, and in the meantime the County could apply for grants to defray the County's costs.

Mr. Saunders explained a 5,000' runway would impact a softball field and about one-half of the walking trail. There was discussion regarding the park changes and advantages that would accrue from the land acquisition: Space for additional entrances to Holden Park, the ability for small jets to use the airport, enhanced buffering between the airport and surrounding residential areas, etc. (IIIB-248/3:08 P.M.)

Directive: Staff to meet with FDOT to clarify items such as where the industrial site would be, size of aircraft, who would use them, what benefit it would be to Citrus County, etc.

10. Maintenance Operations

- ❖ **ADA Status.** Mr. Kuhl advised the money allocation will be used for this year if the Board approves the Duval Island Bridge project; that they are just looking at immediate needs, i.e., ramps and restrooms; etc.
- ❖ **Cemetery Maintenance Policy.** The Board discussed problems associated with cemeteries, the fact that there are unknowns such as ownership, where funds go that are paid for cemetery plots, etc. Mr. Herndon explained there are cemeteries that clearly belong to the County, that persons continue to be buried in them, that funds are being paid for plots and the County has no control or knowledge of where the funds come or how they are used. Additionally, he advised the City of Inverness is willing to maintain the Pine Hill Cemetery, and suggested an interlocal agreement for that purpose. Discussion. Commissioner Fowler suggested the Board continue to take care of those it is presently maintaining, and Commissioner Bartell felt there should be a set policy to not accept the responsibility for any more cemeteries. (IIIB-460/3:23 P.M.)
- ❖ **County Buildings And Grounds Improvements (Landscaping, Maintenance).** Mr. Kuhl advised there are a number of sites that are being kept up but others are neglected, that it seemed that the Board should be setting an example, that they will begin to move in that direction. (IV-005)

The meeting was recessed at 3:25 P.M. and then reconvened at 3:45 P.M.
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11. Aquatics

- ❖ **Boat Ramp Upgrades And Maintenance.** Mr. Kuhl advised that staff will soon be developing a five-year plan and priorities for maintaining boat ramp facilities, and noted the possibility that some of the boat ramps may be recommended to be put on the market.

Commissioner Bartell noted the need for additional parking at the Homosassa boat ramp, that the additional property being offered by Dr. Vesley in that vicinity will soon expire. Mr. Saunders advised there are funds available in the boating improvement tax funds, that Vesley's offer expires mid-February.

Commissioner Batchelor suggested asking the Florida Legislature to dissolve the Citrus County Mosquito Control Board (MCB). He felt the work of Mosquito Control could be done by Aquatic Services, that the dissolution could be done over a period of four years, believed it would effect savings to citizens through a slight reduction in millage, etc. Discussion followed regarding the creation of the MCB, increased citizen expectation/demands if under this Board's control, possibility of increased personnel/equipment under the Board of County Commissioners, etc. (IV-A/4:15 P.M.)

It was determined to agenda this item on January 26th, and invite a representative of the MCB to be in attendance.
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Administration

- 12. **Economic Development Council.** Mr. Kuhl noted that the EDC Executive Director had been hired, that they are progressing with the Board's objectives, with special attention to look out for businesses that are already established. Commissioner Batchelor noted he had suggested using funds to help to expand or improve existing industrial/business infrastructure. (4:17 P.M.)

13. **Salary and Efficiency Study.** Mr. Kuhl updated the status of the study, noting the staff is working on a work program for the consultant (to be selected at a later date).
14. **Space Needs.** Mr. Kuhl advised of meetings with architects and requested preliminary sketches from them for Board review, and hoped to have that available fairly soon. He advised that if the Board and its staff were to move to the Lecanto Complex, it would cost approximately \$150,000 for office space and around \$40,000+ as well as a Board room on the south end of the building, on the second floor, and could be done in phases. He pointed out that would be using existing furniture. He noted the need to make a decision on this item as the Masonic Building lease is up this fall, and the planning and actual work will take a bit of time.
- Mr. Herndon recommended short-term financing and then meld it into the bond debt for the Courthouse expansion project. Discussion, with Board members supporting moving their offices to Lecanto, having the work done all at the same time (to avoid several disruptions), using existing furniture, consolidating Board staff all in one area.
- Commissioner Fowler noted the availability of office space in the Inverness area, i.e., State Farm building on Highway 44, that could be used for constitutional officers.
15. **Public Information Officer/Administrator's Office.** Mr. Kuhl recommended that the duties of the PIO position could be redefined and reassigned, and the position be eliminated. Short discussion.
16. **Public Safety** Issues (None) (IV-B/4:35 P.M.)

17. **Other Board Comments**

- **Constitutional Amendment Revision No. 7:** Commissioner Bartell suggested that each Board member meet with the County's Legislative delegates to let them know how important it is going to be to have a true shifting of costs to the state, and not have the State reduce funding, etc.
- **Commendation to Staff:** Commissioner Thorpe and the Chairman commended staff on the handling and preparation of the Goal Setting Session, as well as in assisting to carry out the County's goals.
- **Advisory Boards:** The Chairman broached the subject of advisory boards, noting that they are all operating under the same standards. However, she explained that Mr. Maidhof came before the Board with regard to the Contractor's Advisory Committee (created by Board motion), that there was concern due to the individuals being members of both the CAC and the CCBA Governmental Affairs Committee, and possible conflicts under the Sunshine Law. Following discussion, the Board directed Mr. Haag to agenda this item for further discussion and action.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Jim Bitter commented on the Mosquito Control Board issue, noting that it is a three-member board, that the members meet once each month, are paid \$400.00, that he had been unable to determine that there is any oversight, and that the original function of the board was to construct mosquito control drainage ditches.

Sumner Waite 1) commended the Board on the decision to consolidate its personnel in Lecanto, 2) suggested giving the Inverness Cemetery to the City of Inverness (Mr. Haag noted the City was content to do the maintenance, but did not want ownership), and 3) commented on the Landfill.

There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting. (5:00 P.M.)

ATTEST: _____, Clerk _____, Chairman