

BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 15, 2010

The Baker County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session with the following members present:

Chairman Alex Robinson
Commissioner Michael R. Crews
Commissioner Mike Griffis
Commissioner Mark Hartley
Commissioner B. Gordon Crews

Also present:

County Manager Joseph L. Cone
County Attorney Terry Brown

Chairman Alex Robinson called the meeting to order and Commissioner Gordon Crews led in the prayer and flag ceremony.

Chairman Robinson questioned if there were any corrections to the agenda? Joe Cone requested to add a Resolution under the County Manager section of the agenda. Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to approve the agenda with the addition requested by the County Manager and the motion was second by Commissioner Mike Griffis. Motion carried unanimous.

Chairman Robinson asked if there were any corrections to the consent agenda items, which were:

1. Expenditure Report
2. Approval of Minutes January 19, 2010
3. Approval to pay \$500/St. Mary's River Committee FY 07/08

Commissioner Mike Griffis moved to approve the consent agenda and the motion was second by Commissioner Mike Crews. Motion carried unanimous.

Robert Hathcox stated that February 8, 2010, at the monthly Code Enforcement Board meeting, Mrs. Peggy Tuten came before the board to request a fine reduction due to extenuating circumstances. The Tutens live in Jacksonville and Mr. Tuten had a verbal "rental" agreement with a friend. This non-paying tenant was supposed to fix the mobile home and clean the yard in lieu of rent, so Mrs. Tuten never saw the property to collect rent. Mr. Tuten has since passed away. The Code Enforcement office did not have the Tutens current address so notices were posted on the property that Mrs. Tuten never saw. Mrs. Tuten's Code Enforcement fines total \$1135.00. Mr. Hathcox stated the property is in compliance now and the CEB board recommends reducing the fine to a total of \$425.00. Commissioner Mark Hartley moved to reduce the fine to \$425.00 and the motion was second by Commissioner Mike Crews. Motion carried unanimous.

Georgia Monfort introduced Adrianna Sims as the 2009 Animal Control Volunteer of the Year and presented Adrianna with a nice plaque.

Joe Cone presented Resolution 2010-04 declaring Cow Pen Road in unincorporated Baker County to be in “urgent need” or street improvements in the interests of the public safety, health and welfare of the community. Baker County has identified 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery funding as the only present resource available to complete the funding necessary for street improvements on Cow Pen Road. Tropical Storm Fay in 2008 and other tropical storm rain events have caused intermittent washouts, road surface damage and sub-grade damage to Cow Pen Road. Terry Brown read Resolution 2010-04 by title. Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to adopt Resolution 2010-04 and the motion was second by Commissioner Mike Crews. Motion carried unanimous.

Joe Cone introduced Resolution 2010-05 authorizing the purchase, acquirement or lease of personal property for the benefit of the Board of Commissioners and its inhabitants and to enter into contracts with Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation. In order to acquire such equipment the Board of County Commissioners proposes to enter into a lease-purchase transaction for 5 motor graders. Terry Brown read the resolution by title. Commissioner Mike Crews moved to adopt Resolution 2010-05 and the motion was second by Commissioner Mark Hartley. Motion carried unanimous.

Robert Hathcox came before the Board requesting they consider hiring a part-time employee to handle the Code Enforcement cases and fill the position vacated by Phil Thomas. The office has been without a Code Enforcement Officer since last fall. He reported his office has been trying to keep up with the CEB cases. Mr. Hathcox request would be a person 24 hours a week starting at \$11.00 per hour, which amounts to \$9302.04 for the balance of FY 09-10, which the funds are available in his budget. Commissioner Mike Griffis responded the county is receiving pressure from the Florida Association of Counties and they are asking counties to partner together to accomplish task and not hire new employees. Commissioner Mark Hartley suggested moving Carolyn Bissonnette back over to Planning and Zoning and let her help out in that department. Commissioner Alex Robinson stated what Commissioner Griffis said is true that the Florida Association of Counties is requesting counties do not hire new employees at this time and maybe the Board could look at hiring this part-time person at the new budget year.

Joe Cone requested approval of an addendum to the contract with King Engineer’s agreement for resurfacing County Road 130 (Mudlake Road). The compensation to be paid for providing the requested services shall be \$19,500 in which the funds would come from the SCOP Grant. Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to approve the addendum and the motion was second by Commissioner Mike Griffis. Motion carried unanimous.

Joe Cone presented the bids for a new well to be installed at the restrooms for St. Mary Shoals Park. The low bid was Roger Raulerson Well Drilling for \$5,600. Commissioner Mike Griffis moved to approve the low bid from Roger Raulerson Well Drilling and the motion was second by Commissioner Mark Hartley. Motion carried unanimous.

Joe Cone presented the bids for a new Septic System at St. Mary Shoals Park for the new restrooms. The low bid was Connie White Septic and the bid was for \$6,391.25 but did not include sand. The county Road Department will provide the sand. Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to approve the low bid from Connie White Septic without the sand and the motion was second by Commissioner Mark Hartley. Motion carried unanimous.

Joe Cone presented Resolution 2010-06 supporting Senate Bill 610 and House Bill 417, which would identify the Sheriff, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections and the Clerk of Court as the legislative body of their respective employees and not the Board of County Commissioners. The resolution request came from Sheriff Joey Dobson. Attorney Terry Brown read the resolution by title. Commissioner Mike Griffis moved to adopt Resolution 2010-06 and the motion was second by Commissioner Michael Crews. Motion carried unanimous.

Mike Yarborough requested the Chairman set up a workshop date for discussion on the retrofitting of the old jail in order to move county inmates back to that facility. The Board agreed to meet at 3:45 p.m. on March 2, 2010 before the next commission meeting to workshop the retrofitting of the old jail.

Commissioner Michael Crews questioned the County Manager if we had a status report on the Steel Bridge bid for engineering services for the monitoring of the old landfill site? Mr. Cone stated he had not done the RFP yet but would let Frank Darabi know we were going to bid the services and for him to not do the inspections. Commissioner Crews updated the board on the Ruise family in Margareta who lost their home last December due to a tornado. He stated he has contacted Senator Bill Nelson's office and is waiting on their response.

Commissioner Gordon Crews thanked Herb Rodgers for his interest in the county loans and for bringing to his attention the interest rates associated with those loans. He suggested Clerk Al Fraser renegotiate the loans at a lower interest rate or the board talking about paying off the loans to save the interest. He also stated he would like more financing information when considering borrowing for items such as motor graders or whatever and would like to know the bottom line figure the county needs for our current savings account. He suggested a workshop for discussion on the savings account and the bottom line figure needs to be established.

Commissioner Mike Griffis stated he was not a Commissioner when all the loans were established and he also would like to discuss all the facts. He stated he contacted the

Property Appraisers office and received all the millage rates for the past several years and commended the commission on the savings they had acquired for the county for the past years.

Commissioner Michael Crews informed the Tea Party members present at the commission meeting that Tallahassee is now meeting in committees for discussions on the upcoming budget year and now is the time for them to be present at those hearings.

Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to adjourn. Meeting Adjourned.

Al Fraser, Clerk to the Board

Alex Robinson, Chairman to the Board