

BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

MARCH 2, 2010

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

Vice-Chairman Michael R. Crews
Commissioner Mike Griffis
Commissioner Mark Hartley
Commissioner B. Gordon Crews

Also present:

County Manager Joseph L. Cone
Attorney Will Sexton
County Clerk Al Fraser

Vice-Chairman Michael Crews called the meeting to order and led in the prayer and flag ceremony.

Vice-Chairman Michael Crews questioned if there were any corrections to the agenda? Attorney Will Sexton requested the Dupont Suit Settlement listed under the County Attorney section be taken off the agenda and requested it be withheld till the March 15, 2010 commission meeting.

Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to approve the regular agenda with the deletion of the Dupont Suit Settlement and the motion was second by Commissioner Mark Hartley. Motion carried unanimous.

Vice-Chairman Michael Crews asked for the approval of the consent agenda items, which were:

1. Expenditure Report
2. Approval of Minutes February 15, 2010
3. Kevin Shell appointment to St. Mary's River Committee
4. Jeanine L. Harvey Scholarship Fund/NEFSH donation of \$100
5. St. Mary's Catholic Church/request to waive rental fees at Ag Center
6. Planning Department request to schedule Public Hearing March 15, 2010 beginning @ 6 p.m. for a Small Scale Land Use and Zoning Change requested by Thrift Log Homes, Inc.

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

George Roberts came before the Board explaining the Americans for Fair Tax Taxation. He explained the Fair Tax creates jobs where the current system destroys jobs. The Fair Tax gives you your whole paycheck and no Federal withholding. He explained the Fair Tax eliminates Social Security withholding, eliminates the corporate taxes and cost of

compliance hidden in both wholesale and retail prices. He explained how the Fair Tax dramatically lowers effective tax rates for lower and middle income and how it would allow families to save more and faster for homeownership, education and retirement. Fair Tax frees up time wasted on filling out cumbersome and inscrutable IRS forms throughout the economy to the tune of \$325 million or more and raises the same amount of revenue for the federal government (revenue neutral). Commissioner Mike Griffis commented that this is a grass roots movement that is working to get this Fair Tax going and questioned if Mr. Roberts had spoken with Representative Crenshaw on this. Commissioner Griffis stated he was not sure this board was prepared to pass a Resolution supporting Fair Tax tonight. Mr. Roberts requested the commission consider putting the resolution supporting fair tax on the next agenda for March 15, 2010. Herb Rodgers requested if he could ask a question? Vice Chairman Michael Crews informed Mr. Rodgers if he had a question for Mr. Roberts and the Fair Tax to see him after the meeting. Mr. Herb Rodgers responded he had a question for the Vice-Chairman. Vice Chairman Crews requested he fill out a speaker card and then when it came to the section of the agenda for public comments he would recognize him.

Joe Cone requested Board approval concerning the contract with Eisman & Russo, Inc. with the design of CR 23 A and CR 23 C intersection for the amount of \$8,283.25. He explained the new proposal has a 26% reduction from the previous quote, which amounts to a savings of \$3,003.50. Commissioner Mike Griffis moved to accept the proposal from Eisman and Russo in the amount of \$8,283.25 and the motion was second by Commissioner Gordon Crews. Motion carried unanimous.

Joe Cone presented a contract fee proposal from L.D. Bradley Surveyors for the same intersections of CR 23 A and CR 23 C in the amount of \$6500 dollars for approval by the board. Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to accept the proposal from L. D. Bradley in the amount of \$6500 dollars and the motion was second by Mark Hartley. Motion carried unanimous.

Darryl Register came before the commission to request county support of a local Farmers Market to be located in the old Wal-Mart parking lot in front of Peebles and Sam's Seafood Restaurant. The market would be open on Saturdays from 8:00 am until 1:00 p.m. starting the first Saturday in April of 2010 until July of 2010. Local vendors (within a 150 mile radius) could come and sell locally grown produce and original goods. The market will be organized as a not-for-profit. Local vendors would be charged \$10 per Saturday on a per space basis. The organizing committee has consulted with the IFAS Extension Office, Health Department, City of Macclenny, Baker County Planning, St. Andrews Agency and others and has visited 5 other markets in surrounding communities. Ed Preston stated the Planning Department has investigated this project concept with the Florida Association of Counties as its insurance provider and was informed by Ken Moneghan with Bliss McKnight that the county could include this activity in their insurance coverage for no additional cost. The requirements are for the vendors to be

responsible for their own products, comply with state and federal regulations and taxes, be required to provide proof of general liability or homeowner's insurance coverage and be required to sign a "hold harmless" affidavit. Vice Chairman Michael Crews questioned who would oversee the rules? Darryl Register pointed out the non profit has a board of directors and will have someone on site at all times to oversee the operation. Darryl Register pointed out the board would need to grant approval of the concept in order to operate under the counties liability insurance. Commissioner Mark Hartley moved to approve the concept of the Farmers Market and the motion was second by Commissioner Mike Griffis. Motion carried unanimous.

Joe Cone led in the discussion of the proposed Campaign Sign Ordinance (Ordinance 2010-05) and requested permission to advertise the Ordinance. Commissioner Michael Crews stated in section (d) on page four he would like to make the change to read All temporary political signs must be removed within five (5) days after the general election. Then add an additional section (e) to read all unsuccessful candidates must remove their signs within five (5) days of the unsuccessful election. The Board unanimously agreed to the changes and gave permission to advertise the ordinance.

Sharon Padgett spoke against the campaign sign ordinance in residential areas. She stated since she paid property taxes it was over stepping boundaries in the ordinance when you tell property owners how many feet apart and how high the signs can be on private residential property. She requested the Board reconsider the wording in the ordinance concerning signs on private residential property before adopting the final ordinance.

Commissioner Mike Griffis reported Sara Little, Assistant Secretary to the Board, and also his daughter, had her baby on February 22 and his name is Kellen Michael Little.

Commissioner Michael Crews gave an update on the Ruise and Simmons family in Margaretta. The disaster folks are coming on Friday from Tallahassee to look at Cow Pen Road and the home in Margaretta destroyed by the tornado in December of 2009. Since the news was printed in the local Baker County Press the community has helped this family also.

Commissioner Mike Griffis moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Al Fraser, Clerk to the Board

Alex Robinson, Chairman to the Board