

BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

April 6, 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 Clerk Al Fraser
County Attorney Terry Brown
County Manager Joseph L. Cone

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

Chairman Robinson asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. After no response Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to approve the agenda and the motion was second by 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 March 15, 2010
3. Quarterly Report DMAP (Inmate Bracelets)
4. Planning Department request to schedule Public Hearing April 19, 2010 beginning @ 6 p.m. for a Small Scale Land Use and Zoning Change requested by Glen Plantation LTD., Hugh Fish as agent.

Commissioner Mike Griffis moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the motion was second by Mark Hartley. Motion carried unanimous.

Sharon Padgett, PO Box 1252 Glen St. Mary Fl 32040, informed the Commission she wanted to discuss the County Manager's contract, which has an effective date of August 7, 2006. Ms. Padgett stated she was a firm believer in contracts and a firm believer in keeping your word, especially if you are a person in a position that oversees contracts, rules and regulations to see they are carried out to the fullest. Per Joe Cones contract on page five it states the employee agrees to relocate to and establish a permanent resident in Baker County by January 15, 2007. Ms. Padgett stated she discussed the contract with three of the county commissioners individually and was informed by the commissioners they were aware back when the contract was negotiated the housing market was too high and a mutual agreement was Mr. Cone could not move at that time. Per Ms. Padgett she had spoken to Mr. Cone concerning his contract and also received a copy of the contract from Mr. Cone. If you do not honor your contract then you should have renegotiated it. Ms. Padgett stated she did research on properties for individuals for reducing their property taxes and while on the computer found Mr. Cone had purchased a house in St. Johns County on December 18, 2009. She stated if Mr. Cone agreed to purchase a home in the

county he is employed in and you do not and then purchase a home in another county that is a slap in the face and it appalls me that he did not follow through with his contract. She stated as County Commissioners you should do something to make him uphold the contract. Ms. Padgett referenced on page three number 16 states all terms and conditions of all leases, contracts and agreements are followed and services performed and notify the County Clerk, County Attorney and Board of any noted violations. Her question to the Board was has he notified them that he was in violation of not moving to our county? Did he notify you he had purchased a home in another county? After a brief pause and no response from the Board she asked again were you notified? Is this a common practice that we have a leader that violates his contract and we are not upset about it? Are we at that point that we do not have any ethics in our system anymore?

Commissioner Michael Crews stated he was aware that he did not live in Baker County and the previous decisions were made by another board before I was elected and I will not second guess them in the commitments they made to him and quite honest I do not care if he bought 10 houses in other counties and really do not care maybe it is a retirement home and personally I do not have a concern with it. Mr. Crews stated Mr. Cone does a good job and I do not see really what the benefit of him living in Baker County is and what would the county gain by him moving to Baker County anyway.

Sharon Padgett stated that was one of her questions when she discovered he did not reside in Baker County then why was it not taken out of his contract?

Chairman Alex Robinson stated he was here at the time and he helped negotiate that contract. At that time that Board wanted something to that effect and was his understanding not that Mr. Cone had to but it was the guideline for that contract. But tonight we are prepared to make amends to that contract. This Board will amend that contract tonight.

Sharon Padgett questioned to make an amendment would mean that you actually have to renegotiate the contract correct?

Chairman Alex Robinson stated no we are not going to renegotiate the contract.

Sharon Padgett stated according to the existing contract I do not see why you cannot just get through changing the contract. If you knew these issues then why does it have to be a citizen that comes forward and brings up the issue? When you keep your word then I consider you a person of integrity but when I find out that you violate your contract that makes me have very little faith in your leadership.

Chairman Alex Robinson-Sharon we just did not do this just yesterday. As a matter of fact I contacted the attorney myself to address this situation. We are prepared tonight to address it. I do not care if Mr. Cone lives in New York and flies to work everyday. If the general public knew how much work Mr. Cone put into our county I think they would appreciate Mr. Cone a lot more. I have witnessed him in meetings and I see how he represents Baker County and him living in Lake City or wherever he may live does not matter to me. I just feel we have a good county manager and we need to appreciate him and I do.

Sharon Padgett- I am not saying that I do not appreciate his work that is not it. You have said yourself you were involved with the negotiations of his contract. If it was not important that he live in our county you should have never put it in the contract. If we are going to change the rules every time some one violates them then how many times am I going to have to go back and find out when a contract has been violated and bring it to this board where it can be corrected?

Chairman Alex Robinson – you do not have to. That is not your position.

Sharon Padgett – As a taxpayer it is my position. People of integrity should feel strongly about violations of contracts. This next question is for the county attorney. Is it voted by this board or is it strictly a decision of the county manager when impact fees are to be not collected in a timely manner?

Chairman Alex Robinson-the Building Official is responsible for the collection of impact fees.

Sharon Padgett-Is the county manager the supervisor over the building official and is he to give direct orders to Mr. Hathcox?

Chairman Alex Robinson-the Ordinance 2005-45 that we have directs the Building Official to collect the Impact Fees upon issuance of a permit.

Sharon Padgett- I have a copy of the Ordinance but my question is again does the County Manager supervise and give the authority to the person to not follow through the ordinance?

Commissioner Mike Crews-are you asking can the County Manager waive impact fees?

Sharon Padgett-yes

Chairman Alex Robinson -I do not know what the conditions might be but yes.

Sharon Padgett-I have a letter that is on file issued by Mr. Cone to Mr. Hathcox stating for an impact fee negotiated with BCDC and it states that due to budget timing and constraints we do not want to delay the opening of the new jail facility and once the code issues are resolved with them please issue a certificate of occupancy to BCDC. This letter was written in 2008. The \$224,000 that was the impact fee was suppose to be given to our county and according to the ordinance the time of payment of impact fees imposed on all new dwellings shall be paid to the county as a condition of the issuance of the move on permit by the county or at the earliest stage pursuant to an agreement with the county. No building permit or move on permit shall be issued without the payment of the impact fee. The board of County Commission may accept in kind contributions of land or capital facility to public use. This tells me that we should have had BCDC payment of the impact fee and we have not.

Chairman Alex Robinson-to set the record straight I was one that supported waiving the impact fees for that facility. It is my understanding the county did not waive the fees and they are to be collected.

Sharon Padgett-Mr. Cone stated in a meeting March 4, 2008 that he talked with Mr. Danny Thomas of BCDC and that the county could not waive the impact fee.

Chairman Alex Robinson-and that is what I said I am in support of waiving the impact fees and the fees were not supposed to be waived.

Joe Cone-you have to step back in time. The fall of 2008 when the Sheriff sold the bonds he was beginning construction of the BCDC facility. Jails are not specifically identified when it comes to calculating what the impact fees should be. We have it calculated for restaurants and houses and things of that nature but nothing that says jails. There is also a provision in the code that says you can negotiate the impact fees by doing a traffic study. I do not know if Sharon has the letter that I asked the Sheriff to give us where they used the traffic study of 89 vehicles per day. Obviously we are going to have to do a separate study, which the code allows, and I told Mr. Hathcox lets go ahead and get the project started, we do not want to delay the construction of the jail. As a result BCDC submitted the plans and everything was approved and the construction proceeded and when it came time to issue the certificate of occupancy, or to turn the electricity on at BCDC, Mr. Hathcox questioned the impact fees. I told Mr. Hathcox we were still negotiating how we were going to handle the traffic because the question comes up about the existing jail building. Inmates do not drive and how do you calculate the credit at the old jail, he has not added any new employees as far as deputies and things of that nature. The question of how many additional guards they were going to hire for BCDC, so it was decided that what we would do is go up there and once he gets open and operational we will count the vehicles and that will determine what his impact is. That is the way that it has been preceding. Had the Sheriff been able to fill the building up with 512 inmates within 90 days, which was the plan I am sure we would not even be talking about this issue. I do not have to go into any debt fund issues associated with the financing for the jail. He already has had to cut back his staff and it is to the counties advantage. The Sheriff needs to be operating at the maximum capacity for inmates because the more trips he generates the more impact fee money we will receive. That is the logic behind that and rather than hold up the jail and hold up a \$32 million dollar facility and require folks to stay over here in the old jail then the plan was to open the facility with 512 inmates. I told Mr. Hathcox to go ahead and we will do the study later. They owe us the impact fees and the Sheriff knows they owe us the money and BCDC knows they owe us the money and it is not like they are going to pack their bags and move to Switzerland. We need a jail and they are going to be here.

Sharon Padgett-I did ask this question also. BCDC is the only one that has ever been allowed to do this and I think it is very appalling that we have other people in other situations like residential homes that maybe they can not afford the impact fee but I do not think there was any consideration for them. It should be across the line and sometimes you just need to stick to your Ordinance and regulations. It is again back to integrity, are you going to treat everybody the same like you should or are we going to keep playing a guessing game? I guess I will be constantly micro-managing this board. I am a taxpayer and when I find information like this it may not be very big to any of you but it is to me. When I sign a contract I follow through with it and I think most of you do too. When Mr. Cone fails to follow through with contracts there is no consequences and according to your discipline policy there should be consequences. There should be suspension without pay or made to resign or either be fired. According to your own Personnel Policy that is the discipline action.

Terry Brown- With life and time things change. Contracts are renegotiated all the time depending on change and circumstances. This issue the commission has been aware of and most of your predecessors are aware of this issue in terms of when contracts have been extended and when raises have been granted and everything else. I would not characterize anything being in breach of contract as long as that would imply there was either misconduct or a lack of knowledge on both sides. This was a waiver of by mutual agreement between the parties. I agree that whatever the contracts are they should be followed, and if you need an amendment to the contract then technically you need to amend the contract. If you wish there is a simple solution to your problem and that is to release that provision in the county manager contract. If you wish to do that I have an amendment prepared that deletes that one paragraph in the contract.

Commissioner Gordon Crews-do you consider this a renegotiation of the contract or an amendment to the contract?

Terry Brown - a simple amendment of the contract that memorializes what basically was agreed to over the course of years. Everybody knows where Mr. Cone has been living and everybody knows what is in his contract. This is an issue some of you have inherited.

Sharon Padgett- Can we talk about the travel pay in the county manager contract and take out the \$95 per week for travel and allow him to use the county car?

Terry Brown – you can try to renegotiate a contract and you can even ask Mr. Cone if he will work for free I guess?

Sharon Padgett-no sir, I did not even imply that and I am sorry that your sarcasm applies to me. I am simply saying he is violating the contract and you are taking it very lightly and if I ever get into trouble I will need you as an attorney because you take it very lightly and can represent it well. That is a personal comment and the sarcasm can work both ways. When I ask for an opinion by a professional then I expect a professional answer.

Chairman Alex Robinson-I asked Mr. Brown to handle this situation and I think he has handled it accordingly and I accept his recommendations.

Commissioner Mike Griffis-Mr. Chairman since this contract has just been handed to me tonight can we think about it and review it? Is this something we need to vote on it tonight?

Chairman Alex Robinson- I do not know what there is to think about Commissioner.

Commissioner Mike Griffis-there are two pages here and I have not read it and I do not know what is in it.

Chairman Alex Robinson-the only thing that is being amended in the county manager contract is deletion of the paragraph 8 and sub paragraph b. Am I correct Mr. Brown?

Terry Brown-that is correct. Section 1 says you are deleting Section 8b of the agreement and basically says everything else stays as is. It basically deletes the relocation provision.

Commissioner Mike Griffis-and that is in Section 1 of the new agreement?

Terry Brown- yes sir

Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to accept the amendment to the county manager employment agreement that we should have amended in 2007 or 2008 and the motion was second by Commissioner Mike Crews. Motion carried unanimous.

Joe Cone presented Resolution 2010-08 supporting an amendment to an agreement with the FDOT for Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Agreement in which Baker County agreed to undertake certain maintenance and operational responsibilities with regard to specified traffic signals on the State Highway System and the Department provided payment for the same pursuant to the terms set forth in the agreement. Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to adopt **Resolution 2010-08** and the motion was second by Commissioner Mike Griffis. Motion carried unanimous.

Joe Cone presented the board a memo from the Town of Glen St. Mary's attorney Joel F. Foreman, with the Town Council's suggestions for changes to the proposed **Sign Ordinance**. Chairman Alex Robinson stated he did not think the county needed to incorporate those changes in our ordinance. Commissioner Mike Griffis stated he thought we did need to incorporate them into our ordinance and felt they were good suggestions and felt they cleared up some of the concerns that this board had during the board meeting discussions on the proposed sign ordinance changes. Joe Cone said he could incorporate them into the ordinance and then send it back out to the Town of Glen and City of Macclenny for review again. Chairman Alex Robinson stated the Town of Glen attorney rewrote the whole sign ordinance. Juanice Padgett, Mayor of Glen St. Mary stated there were just three small changes requested by her Town Council. Commissioner Gordon Crews agreed with Commissioner Mike Griffis that it clears up some of our issues we had. Terry Brown stated he agreed with some of the issues and felt the suggestions were good issues that the attorney raised and if the board so agreed then he would go back and incorporate the changes into the county sign ordinance. The Board agreed to incorporate the changes suggested by the Town of Glen attorney into the sign ordinance to be brought back at a later date for approval.

Joe Cone presented **Resolution 2010-09** supporting the Florida House of Representatives bill 0843 and Florida Senate Bill 1724, bills to designate rural enterprise zone status on the rural area of critical economic concern's catalyst sites. Darryl Register explained that supporting the North Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern's Catalyst sites in Suwannee and Columbia counties shall someday generate revenues that will be shared among the members of the North Florida Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern and believes the benefits that the Rural Enterprise Zone offers would add to value to firms seeking to locate in the North Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic concern's Catalyst Sites. Commissioner Mike Griffis moved to adopt Resolution 2010-09 and the motion was second by Commissioner Gordon Crews. The motion carried unanimous.

Joe Cone presented a proposal by First American Title Insurance Company to purchase 4 lots each 25' x 100' owned by Baker County located in the Lincoln Park Sub Division lots 32, 33, 34 and 35 Parcel ID#35-2S-20-0013-0033-0320. The proposed offer was \$15,000 for the 4 lots 100' x 100'. Terry Brown stated his recommendation is the offer looks fine but we need to put the property out for bid and the county could state in the advertisement no bids less than \$15,000 accepted. Joe Cone stated he would handle the advertisement.

Joe Cone presented an acceptance of title letter for a travel trailer donated by Ronald and Ellen Coggin to be signed by Chairman Robinson. He stated Commissioner Michael Crews is intimately familiar with the problems we have had with these two families in the Margaretta area who lost their homes in December 2008. Ms. Ellen Coggin who donated the travel trailer heard about the family due to all the publicity.

Commissioner Mike Griffis questioned why would the county accept the title to the travel trailer versus the family? Commissioner Mike Crews answered that the Coggin family is donating the travel trailer to the county and needs the tax write off once the use there in Margaretta is no longer needed the county will have it to use.

Mr. Cone informed the Coggin family purchased a new travel trailer and they could not get any trade in value on the old travel trailer and they wanted to get rid of it. The Coggins decided to make a donation to a needy family. Danny Norton questioned if the needy family needed the camper then why did the Coggins not just give the camper to the Margaretta family? Mr. Cone stated if she gave the title to the Margaretta family then she could not take a \$3,000 dollar tax write off and that is probably the big reason.

Mark Lancaster questioned if the travel trailer is titled to the county and the Margaretta family will be living in it is the county liable if they burn up in it?

Sharon Padgett stated that is her question also and will the county maintain the insurance on it?

Commissioner Mike Crews stated the county is liable already for allowing the family to live in the house they are in now and not condemn it.

Joe Cone said that is true and we did check the travel trailer out and made sure that everything was functioning and properly set up and Mr. Hathcox went out and looked at it to make sure it was ok.

Commissioner Mike Crews said that if the county continues to let the folks live in that house we will probably have as much liability as well because the building should be torn down it is on the verge of collapse as it is. Commissioner Mike Crews expressed again the county is liable for letting them live there in sub standard conditions and not condemning it knowing full well what the conditions are.

Sharon Padgett asked could we not just title it to them and have them title it back to us when they are finished with it so we would not have any insurance responsibility?

Commissioner Mike Crews said if it would not be titled to us the donating family could not get the tax write off.

Terry Brown stated the people who donated the trailer that if the county takes title to it, then they are entitled to a write off. Then after that you can do what you wish.

Commissioner Mike Crews we are opening ourselves up to giving the property away.

John Kennedy stated sell the camper then to the family for \$1.00.

Terry Brown said then you are opening yourself up for the argument you are doing something for one family and not another. How many houses have we built and given away, we have a SHIP program that engages in this type of activity. You at least have that as a counter argument or shield.

Commissioner Mike Griffis stated then you Mr. Brown are suggesting the county accept the title and give it to the family and let them live in it.

Terry Brown stated he felt that was the better approach to handle it and you have less liability exposure that way.

Chairman Alex Robinson stated we then would have a stipulation that once they move on then they are required to give the camper back to the county.

Commissioner Mike Griffis said he could see the donating families reason but I think it still would liable the county by it staying in our name.

Danny Norton stated by doing this we are not letting the system work. We are putting the government right back into the system. It is supposed to be charity.

Chairman Alex Robinson stated we have waited a long time for the system to work for this family.

Commissioner Mike Crews said the folks are not interested in signing the title over to the family. They are ok with signing over to the government entity so the donating family can receive the tax write off. What we are doing here is debating whether we are going to fight common sense or not. That is exactly what got us where we are. Government does not recognize common sense.

Chairman Alex Robinson asked that Mr. Brown take care of the paper work.

Commissioner Gordon Crews made a motion that the board accepts the title to the travel trailer donated to the Margareta family and the motion was second by Commissioner Michael Crews. Motion carried unanimous.

Terry Brown asked that the board make a motion to donate the travel trailer to the SHIP program after they are finished with it. Commissioner Mike Crews made the motion to donate the travel trailer to the SHIP program and the motion was second by Commissioner Mike Griffis. Motion carried unanimous.

Joe Cone shared with the Board a letter from the HSBC Mortgage service debated at a previous commission meeting regarding a code enforcement lien. Mr. Hathcox was instructed by the Board to send a letter to the company requesting all of the lien payment. Mr. Hathcox did so and they paid the entire required lien totaling \$2855.

Sharon Padgett came before the board asking a question on the county inmates if the board could renegotiate lowering the price at BCDC or else find another area to send our inmates to start saving some money and if the board had done any of the above?

Chairman Alex Robinson stated those answers are forthcoming.

Commissioner Mike Crews said the sub committee he is on has asked those questions? He stated we are in the process of getting those answered. We are now seeking clarification as to whether those prices can be renegotiated within a year.

Sharon Padgett said correct but any given time according to the contract we can drop the contract with BCDC and then reenter it which was discussed at the workshop. According to the contract I have read it would be a viable option. We need to reduce our inmate care is what I am trying to say and if we can reduce the \$84 per day down \$20 to \$30 dollars it would be a lot of money back into the county.

Commissioner Mike Crews stated it is but also another angle you have to look at is they may reduce the inmate care at BCDC but then come back and say you need to start paying rent on the amount of office space square footage the Sheriff is using. Currently you are not paying any rent. So then we would be back at the \$84 per day we were. You are getting more for the inmate care for the \$84.72; you are getting office space also. It would cost us three fold if they drop the cost of inmate care because all of that is built into the inmate cost. We are not paying rent on the square footage the staff is using there now.

Sharon Padgett said she did not bring the contract to see if that is actually 100% correct. If that is the problem then you do have other county space and empty offices at this point that could be used to bring in staff.

Commissioner Mike Crews stated you do not have anywhere to accommodate the law enforcement side of the Sheriff office.

Sharon Padgett responded not even the old jail facility.

Commissioner Mike Crews responded not even the old jail.

Sharon Padgett questioned what was the increase in it since it we were able to before.

Commissioner Mike Crews stated they have employees who are seeking benefits due to mold infections in their lungs and there are several issues that have to be addressed over there. We do not have anywhere now that we could put those folks.

Sharon Padgett stated but it is in the contract where we negotiated the \$84.72 per day also includes the rent for the Sheriff's offices. Is it stated like that in the contract so when I read it I will know exactly?

Commissioner Mike Crews said what he is saying is if we go back and say we want to renegotiate the cost of the county inmates care from the \$84.72 then it allows them the opportunity to begin to make up the difference by charging rent for space that we are currently not paying for right now as a separate check I am sure is built into the \$84.72.

Sharon Padgett stated it sounds like we have ourselves between a rock and a hard place right there. It is a tuff situation

Commissioner Mike Crews said not for what you are getting there and the bigger picture is once I get those numbers the sub committee will have an opportunity for the public to come in and examine them and if I agree with you then I will say you are right Ms. Padgett. I have to see those figures broken out before I can.

Sharon Padgett said the other question is the bracelet issue. According to the figures presented by Chris Thomas the average of three inmates per day over the period of time he reported. Is that correct and the most inmates we can put into this bracelet program? At one time we had 6 or 8 inmates but according to his average it comes up to only 3 inmates on the bracelet program.

Chairman Alex Robinson said it is not many inmates on the program.

Sharon Padgett questioned is there any way we can increase it? There has to be something we can do. A lot of these people we see being arrested in the paper are not hardened criminals and they could be out on this bracelet program. Sometimes the ones I see in jail are first time offenders. I do not want to second-guess a judge but is there more pressure we can apply to get more inmates on the bracelet program?

Chairman Alex Robinson responded he agreed with Ms. Padgett and wished he had more say so.

Sharon Padgett asked did the board not make guidelines for who could be on the bracelets? Is not Lorinda Fish the one who makes the determination who goes on the bracelet program and makes the recommendations to the judge?

Commissioner Mike Crews said the judge would decide whatever he felt comfortable doing. Ms. Fish does the background checks on the inmates for the judge to make that decision but I do not think she makes the recommendations.

Sharon Padgett said maybe I miss understood it but I am trying to see if we can get our expenses down.

Commissioner Gordon Crews said he understood and when Judge Williams came before the board he said there were at least ten inmates that could be on the bracelet program and like you said an average of three is a far cry from ten.

Commissioner Mike Crews said he wished there could be at least twenty.

Terry Brown questioned what kind of bracelets are you talking about the electronic monitoring ones?

Sharon Padgett said yes they cost \$22 per day.

Terry Brown said he knew personally and deals with the same issue in Bradford County last week where the judge requested house arrest as opposed to the jail due to his multiple medical problems. Eventually the judge agreed to the house arrest without bracelets. My client cannot afford the electronic monitoring and some clients are in there because they do not pay child support yet they cannot afford the electronic monitoring also.

Sharon Padgett said her understanding is that Baker County is paying the \$15 per day. It is supposed to be reimbursed and we are to try to collect from the inmate.

Terry Brown questioned you mean the county is paying for the bracelet program for the inmates?

Commissioner Mike Griffis said we are trying to collect from inmates that could pay but thus far that has not been the case. The board felt paying for the bracelets was cheaper then putting the inmates at BCDC.

Sharon Padgett said thank you for allowing her to speak passionately about things and I will continue to work with this board even if we do not agree on things. We are here for our county and the taxpayers and that is what it is about. It was never a personal attack against Mr. Cone and if would have been any of you that I found a contract incorrect I would have done the same thing. Thank you very much.

Chairman Alex Robinson questioned if there were any comments from the board.

Commissioner Mike Crews reminded that on Wednesday April 7th, the sub committee is offering the public an opportunity to inspect and tour the old jail facility. We will meet here at the county building at 4:00 p.m. and then continue over to the jail and walk folks through there and show them what the problems are we are seeing. The sub committee does not have the answers yet but we are submitting questions and when we get those answered we will get answers for you. The sub committee is arranging to have an inspection done to see what the law requires and once we have all those together we can get some answers for you. Mr. Crews also thanked Joe Cone for his support and help with the Margareta family he treated them like they were his neighbors and I spoke with him several times on the phone even on his time off. He received lots of e-mails and phone calls on the issue and he and Mrs. Ann Yarborough handled them and I appreciate both of their efforts. It shows to me you cannot rely on government further than your local government to help folks.

Commissioner Mike Griffis proposed to the board to take our show on the road. He suggested taking the regular commission meetings and hold them out in the community in certain areas. Sometimes it is difficult for elder people to get to the meetings to see what is actually going on. In this day and age of people wanting transparency and wanting to see what this Board and School Board is doing, I think it would be a good gesture for us to take regular commission meetings and go out into the community. It will tough for the recordings on Ms. Ann but we have done this before. I had a Town Hall meeting up in Baxter a few months back. On Friday night I met with the community there at the fire station. I promised them I would come back either with another Town Hall meeting or a full Commission meeting and would like for us to consider the idea. The School Board does this now in the community and I think one in Taylor, Baxter, Sanderson, Olustee and maybe South Macclenny if you guys would want it in your districts also. I would like for the Board to consider this idea.

Terry Brown said from the previous discussion the board had he wanted to point out that before the down turn of the economy and everything went bad, he approached Joe Cone to see if he could have permission to open an office in Baker County. The reason he had to ask permission was because when he was hired or selected as County Attorney, he was to not live in Baker County because the idea was at that point in time that commission wanted to make sure whoever the county Attorney was would be objective and was not who you new or who your friends were or who you were related to or who you go to church with in terms of how you interpret things or call things and the board at that time felt that it was even better to have someone from the outside as opposed to being to closely affiliated. I was on the other side of the coin I was told I could not come to Baker County.

Chairman Alex Robinson said that he and Mr. Cone and Ed Preston and others are working on future projects such as the by-pass road and waste water treatment facilities, drinking water reclaim water system and visited Representative Ander Crenshaw's office and Senator Bill Nelson's office and he stated he had in front of him today a letter from Senator Charles Dean expressing his support to Baker County for trying to secure federal funding for water, waste water and reclaimed water systems. The project is critical to preserving the environment and public health in the community. If we had the facility in the Sanderson area the Health Department will tell you we have water problems anyway. Once we establish a facility in Sanderson it will bring results to Baker County and enhance the future of Baker County.

Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Al Fraser, Clerk to the Board

Alex Robinson, Chairman to the Board