

JANUARY 4, 2011

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, met in JOINT Session with the City of Palmetto and the School Board of Manatee County in the Manatee Civic Center, One Haben Boulevard, Palmetto, Florida, at 5:30 p.m.

Present were:

MANATEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Carol Whitmore, Chairman
John R. Chappie, First Vice-Chairman
Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr., Second Vice-Chairman
Michael Gallen, Third Vice-Chairman
Robin DiSabatino
Donna Hayes
Joe McClash

CITY OF PALMETTO COMMISSIONERS

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor
Alan Zirkelbach, Vice-Mayor
Tamara Cornwell
Mary Lancaster
Tambra Varnadore
Brian Williams

MANATEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Bob Gause, Chairman
Harry Kinnan, Vice-Chairman
Julie Aranibar
Karen Carpenter
Barbara Harvey

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator
Jim Minix, Chief Deputy County Attorney
Susan G. Romine, Board Records Senior Manager,
representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court
Tim McGonegal, School Board Superintendent

Mark Barnebey, attorney representing the Manatee County School Board, stated due to a statutory requirement that the meeting and agenda be established at least 48 hours in advance of a Special Meeting, a work session will be held.

AGENDA

Agenda of January 4, 2011.

[BC20110104DOC009](#)

NORTH RIVER SWIMMING POOL

Tim McGonegal, School Board Superintendent, noted two School Board members requested an update on the North County pool (10/5/10 Council of Governments meeting). He acknowledged the presentation at the Council of Governments meeting earlier in the day, which was most informative.

Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto Mayor, stated the children north of the Manatee River do not have a means to learn how to swim, and there is a commitment from the County Commission, the City, and the School Board to solve the issue. If the YMCA had a pool facility in the area (10th Avenue and 23rd Street) it might help alleviate the need for the County to provide 100 percent funding. She encouraged a joint process to make this a reality and suggested a total complex, adjacent to Blackstone Park, would be in the best interest of all entities.

Discussion: This is an investment in the children; interlocal agreements and/or borrowing; maintenance and liability are not issues if the YMCA runs the facility; do not compare to G.T. Bray facility; short timeframe; County cannot commit funds; pool is on the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list but unfunded; budgeted in 1991-92, but removed in 2006; children must be involved in positive activities; wants v. needs issue; island does not have a pool and children go to G.T. Bray Park; no fundraising for Lakewood Ranch pool; revisit the issue of the pool with the YMCA as economic development; cannot separate the ball fields and the pool as part of the YMCA facility to be utilized by Palmetto High School students; project would provide economic stimulus; consider as a sports complex; maintenance costs; impact fees; no competitive sports

held at Lakewood Ranch facility due to size; size to accommodate sports competition; solicit rowing colleges and development community for funding; if all grants are successful there is still a \$1.2 million shortfall for ball fields; safety issue; if swim meets cannot be held at the pool it is just a splash pool, with no benefit to the school district; commit to provide competition sized pool; organize swim lessons for summer; project is bondable if there is some way to pay back bonds; update on exact cost for pool will be distributed (approximately \$3 million for construction); annual operating costs for pool approximately \$500,000; jointly funding bonds would be difficult; public purpose; revenue stream must be available to pay bonds; use the Parrish YMCA as model; Pride Park projects were funded; revisit YMCA program "Every Child a Swimmer" funded by Kiwanis; Manatee Sail and Power Squadron has education program; economic benefit and jobs must be part of market analysis; Tourist Development Council; include something to help Palmetto economy; County Administrator to work with School Board Superintendent and Mayor of Palmetto to look at different scenarios regarding finance opportunities; total amount for bonding (if grants are received) is \$1.25 million to complete four ball fields and another \$3+ million for pool; analysis will determine actual cost of pool due to community needs; consider introducing YMCA to vacated Palmetto Elementary School which may help with completion of project; etc.

Consensus was reached by the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners to: keep the project on the CIP list (presently unfunded); build a competition sized pool; and consider approaching developers and colleges participating in the rowing competition for funding.

Brian Williams, City of Palmetto, stated the City is committed to build the ball fields but will be \$1.25 million short even with grants. The extension of 10th Street and realignment of 23rd Street must be complete in order for the YMCA to participate. The object is to get the YMCA to build and operate the pool. Entities need to work together to obtain the grants and cover the shortfall to entice YMCA participation.

Deborah Golden-Gestner, Capital Philanthropy Group, consulting firm working with the City of Palmetto, noted communication with the YMCA indicated when the County builds the pool the YMCA will be responsible for the maintenance. The YMCA will fund the cost of their facility which is between \$3.5-4 million. The City will contribute \$800,000 for the roadway, and grants will complete the roadway and ball field funding. The County is requested to fund \$2 million for the pool. She addressed market studies performed by the YMCA to determine needed facilities.

Mark Barnebey, attorney representing the School Board and City of Palmetto, stated the County and City, as general purpose governments, have fairly broad abilities if there is a public purpose to provide funding. The School Board, as a special function government, has to make sure it is tied to educational purposes. Extensions will be requested in the due diligence periods, and he advised the County to do the same. Time frames must be addressed promptly regarding roadways and the Manatee Fruit Company extension, as well as financing bond issues.

Mayor Bryant noted the City of Palmetto prefers that the YMCA locate at the ball field site to act as a stimulus and provide an economic anchor for grant funding. She encouraged all entities to review the presentation and arrive at a means to move forward with the ball fields in conjunction with the pool. She suggested a future meeting to review consensus from the Boards.

[BC20110104DOC010](#)

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned.

Adj: 6:21 p.m.
/njh

Minutes Approved: January 25, 2011