

JANUARY 3, 2012

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, met with the COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS in REGULAR SESSION in the Longboat Key Room at the Manatee Convention Center, One Haben Boulevard, Palmetto, Florida, at 4:04 p.m.

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

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator
Tedd Williams, Jr., County Attorney
Susan G. Romine, Board Records Director,
representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

AGENDA

Agenda of January 3, 2012, and sign-in sheets.

[BC20120103DOC001](#)

CONVENTION CENTER RENOVATIONS TOUR

Elliott Falcione, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director, stated tours would be given following the meeting to provide a sneak preview of the Convention Center renovations.

Rachel Harrison, Facility Manager, pointed out the new carpet, wall panels, and chair rails with vinyl wall covering beneath. Lighting controls and new doors will be installed.

COMMUNITY PLAN FOR CHILDREN

Michael Gallen, Manatee County Commissioner, encouraged a discussion regarding a community plan for children. County-wide resources are underutilized at school campuses after hours, and many elementary school playgrounds are empty. He asked if the community was meeting the needs of the children, or if a better job could be done using public assets. Assets could be utilized with agreements. Many schools have after-school programs, which should be reviewed to determine if the facilities are maximized.

Tim McGonegal, Manatee County School Superintendent, noted most elementary and middle schools are open for after-school use. No one is allowed on campus prior to 6:00 p.m., due to the after-school programs. Most elementary schools have after-school or YMCA programs, and middle schools run a before-school program through the YMCA. Schools could be used after 6:00 p.m., but there are challenges, including lack of supervision for children. The School Board and County are working to file all lease agreements together for easy reference.

Discussion: Possible legislation regarding zero liability for towns using school facilities; weekend use; requirement of 80-hours of community service for students could be met on campus; King Middle School tennis court agreement; supervision; review high-risk areas; etc.

Harry Kinnan, Manatee County School Board, indicated the five-acre park adjacent to Jessie P. Miller School, is available all year. The school system is doing all it can to meet the needs of all children at all times, and is willing to look at additional activities. Key Clubs lead the State in community-service hours at hospitals, churches, and in volunteering.

City of Bradenton Mayor Wayne Poston reiterated the success in working with the School Board and noted the City keeps the parks open and provides security and policing.

Discussion: Review and identify assets (schools and youth centers) to determine how they are used; focus on different programs in the future; lighting on fields and courts; security; prepare a spreadsheet outlining use of all facilities; Mrs. Hayes requested a report regarding lighting at Lakewood Ranch High School affecting Rosedale; adult supervision required to monitor student volunteer hours; some activities can compromise the facilities and extend custodial staff work; Parks and Recreation needs to supervise some areas; etc.

2011 ANNUAL REVIEW OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

Amy Anderson, Manatee County District Schools, used a slide presentation to discuss the history of the Interlocal Agreement for Data Sharing and School Concurrency. She noted the 2011 legislative (House Bill 7207) changes that impacted school concurrency. [BC20120103DOC002](#)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nicholas Azzara, Information Outreach Coordinator, stated the 2012 Florida legislative session will begin two months early due to redistricting efforts, following the census. Locally, the Senate district will keep most of Manatee County together and will include a part of Lakeland, encompassing several large business interests.

Mr. Azzara indicated that Governor Rick Scott is proposing increased funding (up to \$1 billion) for education and reducing Medicare reimbursement rates to hospitals. The proposal would close several State prisons, eliminate up to 4,500 state jobs, and require state employees to pay the same amount across the board for health insurance. An important issue for Florida cities and municipalities is pension reform. There will be proposed bills to create new jobs and to reduce tax burdens on corporations. There is proposed legislation to create a Gaming Commission to address revenues from resort casinos. Legislators may take a look at Internet Cafés that are not regulated and have become crime magnets in some areas.

Mr. Azzara noted that legislation has been filed that would ban municipalities and counties from having a local business tax. Insurance reform will take place this year, including Personal Injury Protection.

Mayor Poston explained that a pool of money from the pension fund comes to cities, and under the current law, can only be used for additional benefits, i.e. fire service, not to provide pension relief. The business tax is an occupational license in most cities, prohibits fly by night businesses, and maintains consumer protection.

COMMENTS

Mullet Season

Ms. Whitmore noted calls from business owners and residents in Longboat Key, Terra Ceia, and the Island regarding fishermen letting the male mullet die and discarding them in order to have more room on the boat to collect roe from the females. Thousands of pounds of dead fish are floating in area waters, and fishermen are netting and blasting the fish to kill them.

Tedd Williams, County Attorney, explained State law preempts the County from regulating salt water activities.

Discussion: Longboat Key has the fish kill problem; regulations may be necessary; many out-of-state boats; roe sold in Asia for a high price; issue for Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; jurisdiction question; cities of Anna Maria and Bradenton Beach can regulate some of the waters due to annexation; provide an incentive for fishermen to bring in all fish; mullet brought to shore is being taken to the landfill; freeze the mullet for food banks or the jail; be proactive in mullet season, which is a one-month issue; educate fishermen; etc.

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator, indicated staff will meet with Karen Bell and a report will follow.

Transit

Mrs. Hayes requested consideration of a special fare connection on the transit system to enable tourists to visit places of interest such as Robinson Preserve, Gamble Mansion, Jiggs Landing and other historic sites. The County could solicit the facilities to participate in this tourist initiative, and the Tourist Development Council could be involved.

Island Trolley

Bradenton Beach Mayor John Shaughnessy voiced concern regarding school children exiting the trolleys in the same manner as they exit a school bus (walking in front of the vehicle). Residents and tourists drive around stopped trolleys, and this is a safety hazard. He suggested magnetic signs placed on the rear of the trolley saying "Do Not Pass When Stopped."

Discussion: Enforcement issue; Gulf Drive is posted "No Passing"; Transit staff needs to review this issue; island residents pass with caution; safety of the children; etc.

Island Tourists

Anna Maria City Commissioner SueLynn, stated the island is struggling with the number of tourists, maintenance issues, and the number of rentals. All three cities are looking on what can be done to manage the number of tourists and rentals. Over one-third of the homes in the City of Anna Maria are rentals.

Holmes Beach Commissioner Jean Peelen stated no one can regulate when and where there will be rentals and for how long a period in Florida. The cities of Anna Maria and Bradenton Beach have no regulations in place. Holmes Beach rental restrictions are in place; however, the issue is the proliferation of enormous duplex houses on what were formerly small residential lots, and are overwhelming neighborhoods.

Discussion: Discussions should be held at the Coalition of Barrier Islands meetings and the Tourist Development Council (TDC); barriers in Comprehensive Plans; TDC spends funds to encourage tourists to visit Anna Maria; a challenge but also an opportunity; address sensitive issues, but do not discourage tourists; TDC is an economic driver; work together on guidelines; islands are an asset and the island cities have done a great job for residents and tourists with sidewalks and bike paths; transition to more residents than rentals in the future; *Southern Living* is publishing a story featuring Pine Avenue in February; etc.

Fire Districts

Tom Flynn, Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue Commissioner, stated consolidation with West Manatee Fire District was explored; however, the cost per household and other factors did not justify consolidation. The issue of mergers and consolidation will be handled and scrutinized at the state level, and Cedar Hammock will be part of those discussions. Cedar Hammock will look at possible mergers or consolidation wherever it is feasible to benefit residents and the respective areas.

NEXT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING

Mr. Chappie encouraged participants to submit agenda items that involve all parties for the next meeting. The new Port Executive Director, Carlos Buqueras, should attend.

Discussion: Port Manatee is on the agenda for the next Manasota League meeting; Cities of North Port and Venice support the Port expansion; the Port has regional impact; consider meeting at the Traffic Management Center for a recap on the traffic management system and include emergency services to provide a scenario; etc.

MANATEE COUNTY KUDOS

Barbara Harvey, Manatee County School Board, noted that Manatee County is one of the top ten counties in the Country that provide for children. Manatee High School is the number one football team in the State of Florida. Manatee County is also proud of the Lakewood Ranch Golf Team, the Palmetto High School "Tigers" football team, and for having the first No-Kill Animal Services facility in Florida.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adj: 5:30 p.m.
/njh

Minutes Approved: February 2, 2012