

APRIL 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 4:03 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 (entered during the meeting)
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 April 3, 2012, and sign-in sheets.

[BC20120403DOC001](#)

PORT MANATEE

Carlos Buqueras, Port Director, stated the Port Authority is moving forward with initiatives to grow and expand Port Manatee over the next 15 to 20 years. He commented on recent trips to Brazil, Florida's largest trading partner, and Chile to generate customers for Port Manatee.

HOW 2-1-1 IS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Jessica Ventimiglia, United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota, Inc., displayed a card outlining 2-1-1 services and stated it is a 501(c)3 organization and accredited by the National and Florida Alliances of Information and Referral Systems and the Agency for Health Care Administration. Call takers are certified specialists. The program operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They recently received grants for a new phone system, to enhance the outreach program, etc.

Ben Kunkel, United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota, Inc., presented a video of the 2-1-1 call center program. The program is an information and referral hotline, specializing in providing information on health and human services in the area.

Ms. Ventimiglia reviewed slides regarding their services, a chart depicting the percentage of calls for each type of service, etc.

Discussion: The measured effectiveness; a Community Coalition on Homelessness booklet includes information to call the 2-1-1 program; etc.

[BC20120403DOC002](#)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 101

Laurie Feagans, Emergency Management Chief, used a slide presentation to review Emergency Management 101 for Elected Officials. She outlined the Emergency Management Program; the types of hazards; the Emergency Operations Center activation process; how elected officials receive event updates; information enhancements; evacuation decision making; a map depicting an example of a flood surge with a Category 5 storm; making a family disaster plan; weather guidance; evacuation timing; shelters for people with special needs; a new forecasting change; re-entry after an event; security; search and rescue missions; and countywide coordinated damage assessment teams.

(Enter Mrs. Hayes during Ms. Feagans presentation)

Discussion: Earthquake in the Gulf of Mexico in 2006; books for elected officials regarding rules for evacuation; prepare for hurricane season; could provide an electronic guide to elected officials for use on portable devices; credentials necessary for re-entry after an emergency; etc.

[BC20120403DOC003](#)

COMMUNITY RECREATION AREAS

Candie Pedersen, Parks & Recreation Department, reviewed a list of County, City, and State parks/preserves; community and youth centers; recreation facilities on school properties; and information regarding playgrounds on elementary school properties, as well as accessibility.

Discussion: Joint use of facilities agreement between the County and the School Board; bring back costs to light some recreational areas, specifically basketball courts; the Sheriff's Office had a goal to construct basketball courts; hours of operation for the 63rd Street Boat Ramp in Holmes Beach should be 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; the Creekwood pet park has opened; there may be funding opportunities to light certain areas; prioritize which courts to light first; etc.

Cindy Turner, Parks & Recreation Director, noted the cost to light basketball and tennis courts is less than the cost of lighting ballfields.

[BC20120403DOC004](#)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nick Azzara, County Information Outreach Coordinator, advised the State adopted a \$7 billion budget and completed redistricting. Legislation that passed this session included: the numeric nutrient criteria; legislation allowing the Governor to remove Regional Workforce board members for cause; placing minor property tax amendments on the ballot, including a tangible personal property tax exemption; communications services tax, to allow telecommunication companies to do bundling differently, and establishing a workforce to determine the impacts to local government; and House Bill 5301, with a component to require counties to pay outstanding Medicaid reimbursements, which will be a \$4 million impact to Manatee County. Issues that failed include the Department of Health reorganization; the banning of internet cafes; enforcement of online sales tax; prison privatization; the joint use of school recreational facilities; the fertilizer preemption bill; and the local business tax.

Discussion: The State reduced the Clerk of Circuit Court's budget by over \$400,000; Manatee County has been affected by these decisions by several million dollars; the Board has requested a summary of the total impact to the County based on the actions of the State; with the mandate to pay \$4 million for the Medicaid reimbursement, the County has a \$9 million budget shortfall; status of the Florida Retirement System court case; all red-light legislation failed; etc.

Tedd Williams, County Attorney, advised that a County Court judge (Pasco County) found the red light statute to be unconstitutional. That is on appeal, and the Attorney General's Office is going to defend the statute.

COMMENTS

Traffic Signal Maintenance

Mr. McClash requested a discussion at the next Council of Governments meeting regarding traffic signal maintenance and the coordination of the signals through the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS). He urged the City of Bradenton to look into this.

Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto, relayed concerns with the ability to get to a hospital from Palmetto when there is a major traffic incident. The City would like to see better synchronization of the signals to avoid backups through the City of Palmetto.

Councilwoman Marianne Barnebey, City of Bradenton, stated she will bring up these concerns at a workshop on April 4, 2012. She noted that during the recent construction of S.R. 64 through the City of Bradenton, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was in charge of synchronizing the signals.

Discussion: Is it best for the County to have one entity taking care of all the traffic signals; personnel at the Traffic Management Center do not have the ability to adjust traffic signals in the City of Bradenton; etc.

Church Road, Palmetto

Mayor Bryant stated she is not opposed to the closing of Church Road (26th Street West), near Holy Cross Church; however, she requested the County, City, and State examine the intersection to determine what can be done to alleviate traffic issues during peak times.

Children Who Cannot Read

Mr. McClash expressed concern with a statistic that a percentage of children cannot read and questioned if that means they cannot read at all or cannot read at grade level. He recommended the County and School Board work together to find a creative way to get the community involved in ensuring every child who graduates is a reader.

Tim McGonegal, School Board Superintendent, stated the Florida Board of Education approved new cut scores. With those new scores, Florida has the most rigorous system of accountability in the nation. The School Board has done some projections on what that means to FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Testing) scores, and proficiency is Level 3 on FCAT. They will make a presentation at the next Council of Governments meeting.

Karen Carpenter, School Board, advised that Manatee County is one of ten counties chosen for an early literacy program.

Bob Gause, School Board, stated research has shown that if children cannot read at grade level by second or third grade, they will fight an uphill battle the rest of the way through school. The school district will provide more services to get students to grade level by the second grade.

Seminars

Commissioner Sandra Haas-Martens, Holmes Beach, noted that on June 7, 2012, the Manasota League of Cities will sponsor two seminars, one of which is "How to Deal with the Media" and the other is an ethics-type program regarding elected officials working with businesses in the area.

Fire Department Radios

Chief Randall Stulce, Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue, announced the fire districts in Manatee County have been awarded a grant of approximately \$1.2 million to replace outdated radios.

Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport

Carlos Beruff, Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority, advised they have replaced 58.4 percent of the seats that were removed by Airtran/Southwest airlines.

County Attorney

Inasmuch as this is his last meeting with the Council of Governments, Mrs. Barnebey thanked Tedd Williams, County Attorney, for his services to Manatee County.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adj: 5:45 p.m.
/dev

Minutes Approved: May 3, 2012