

OCTOBER 2, 2012

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, met with the COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS in REGULAR SESSION in the Merlot Room at the Public Safety Center, 2101 47th Terrace East, Bradenton, Florida, at 4:02 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
Mitchell O. Palmer, County Attorney
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor,
representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

AGENDA

Agenda of October 2, 2012, and sign-in sheets.

[BC20121002DOC001](#)

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CENTER

Sage Kamiya, Public Works Deputy Director, used slides to review the Traffic Management Center (TMC), including the Regional Traffic System and the Automated Traffic Management System (ATMS). The ATMS is to create a more efficient traffic management system, a coordinated regional system to reduce congestion, and improve incident management from emergency services and traffic standpoints. The Intelligent Transportation Systems will utilize technology to improve traveling by using increased maintenance efficiency to react to traffic situations.

[BC20121002DOC002](#)

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT SMART METERS

Rae Dowling, Florida Power & Light Company (FPL), stated FPL has 4.5 million customers, and every meter is read manually every month. Smart Meter technology is the next step in modernizing the grid. The project began in 2010 in Florida, and FPL is ready to begin in Manatee County.

Don Sayre, FPL, used a slide presentation and discussed the merits of Smart Meters. Approximately 36 million homes (one-third of all households in the United States) have Smart Meters being installed. The GE meters are assembled in Bradenton. The first phase will be non-demand meters (residential/small business) and completed in 2013. He reviewed the activation process: network deployment, meter deployment, and area optimization and activation. When Smart Meters are installed, manual and electronic readings will be monitored for three months to obtain comparable data. The new meters provide two-way communications, data collection every four hours, theft protection, power outage reporting, and energy usage information. Smart meter technology will enable faster power outage restoration. There has been no decision regarding the "opt out" program by the Public Service Commission.

Discussion: Meter readers will be transferred to different jobs; most meter readers are contract employees; variance between the two meters; no personal information is relayed in data transmission; health and safety myths regarding radio frequency; electromagnetic meters with communication capabilities; Peace River Electric Co-op, Progress Energy, and Gulf Power are working on the same programs; customers are supplied with information and facts if they voice concerns; bidirectional meters; installation liability; etc.

[BC20121002DOC003](#)

SCHOOL DISTRICT LITERACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Robert Gagnon, Manatee County School Board Interim Superintendent, used slides to review data and provide the status of students' future plans for the School District. Graduation rates have dropped to 75 percent in Manatee County, and standards are continually rising. New students are facing increasing standards and more pressure. The School Board needs to ensure all students have the opportunity to graduate. Tenth grade students read at a 50 percent proficiency rate on high school exams. In 2013-14, every student will be required to take extensive exams in order to graduate. Manatee County ranks 47th out of 67 counties on the eight compatibility categories of Florida Comprehensive Assessment Testing (FCAT) Scores. He stressed the importance of reading at an early age as proficiency grades carry through until graduation. Tier 1 is regular instruction to deliver the core curriculum to all students, and 80 percent should respond; however, 20 percent require intervention. A philosophical change and a massive shift of resources toward early intervention are required for students to respond to core instruction. Rather than knowledge-based learning, Common Core is bringing in application-based instruction.

Dr. Robin Thompson, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, stated literacy is a foundational issue. The focus is in Kindergarten through First Grade to implement the national standards in the curriculum. Systemic collaboration will be developed in the District, and resource allocation needs to be focused on the younger children to build proficiency at an early age. Current retention policies will be reexamined. The School District must partner with the community with regard to what can be done to support early learning and graduate students who are competitive in a global society. The School District is in the process of developing a blended environment computer site, which students and parents can access to view model lessons, videos, and teacher instructions.

Discussion: Community involvement; baby blankets with kindergarten information; corporate sponsors and media reaching out to children; get involved with elementary schools; participate in meetings for selection of new superintendent; funding for Pre-Kindergarten; problem in South County; establish a Newcomer Center; transient community, which creates challenges for the school system; supply parents with resources so they can help children with homework; afterschool programs; etc. [BC20121002DOC004](#)

DRAFT 2013 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Nick Azzara, Information Outreach Coordinator, distributed a list of the draft 2013 Legislative priorities, and the 2012 proposed Florida Constitutional amendments. The Manatee delegation will remain strong despite Legislative redistricting. Several of the amendments on the ballot could have a fiscal impact to local government, and several would benefit targeted audiences. Amendment 4 is packaged as a tax break when, in fact, it will likely be a tax shift. Manatee County's budget has been reduced by \$130 million over the past five years. He noted the Vacation Rentals issue has gained support and urged repeal of House Bill 883. Local resolutions have been adopted regarding a ban on candy-flavored tobacco products, and a request for a legislative ban will be included on the priorities list.

Discussion: State regulation on internet cafés and pay outs; Council of Governments supports the regulation of candy-flavored tobacco; vacation rentals should be a home rule issue; etc. [BC20121002DOC005](#)

RESTORE ACT FUNDING

Charlie Hunsicker, Natural Resources Director, used a slide presentation to review the RESTORE Act, which is a change in the Federal Government distribution of environmental penalties and fines, and amends the Clean Water Act. He noted the Florida legislature specified that funds be distributed to all counties affected by the BP Oil/Deepwater Horizon spill along the Gulf of Mexico. Counties have the discretion as to how funds will be spent from eligible activities set aside in the RESTORE Act. The funds are for damages endured by governments, which lost sales tax proceeds, tourism, and lost income through sales and property tax. Funds provided to

individuals, such as fisherman and restaurateurs, are separate. A consortium of representatives of the 23 Florida counties on the Gulf of Mexico will be created by the end of December to determine how the funds will be distributed. Funds can be requested by major groups. such as Estuary Programs with regionally beneficial projects (restoration projects), regardless of the location along the Gulf, and will be competitively awarded by a panel to include Governor Rick Scott, the Department of Community Affairs, and a representative from each county impacted. Manatee County could potentially receive \$4.7 to 19 million.

Section 1602 of the RESTORE Act establishes the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (Federal level), which transfers 80-percent of the fines/fees (possibly \$5-20 billion dollars). The U.S. Treasury is the primary entity to develop the policies and procedures dealing with oversight issues, and will distribute funds to the different entities. Input has been provided to the Treasury relating to Florida's unique situations and models. Section 1603 was pursued by the Florida delegation to define the Coastal Political Subdivisions, as well as the "coastal zones" that border the Gulf of Mexico. He reviewed the available funds and their allocation, and noted funds go directly to the counties (from Jefferson to Monroe). A resolution will be presented to the 23 counties to present to the County Commissions for consideration to join the consortium, adopt the resolution, and execute the interlocal agreement. [BC20121002DOC006](#)

COMMENTS

Re-branding

Ms. Whitmore invited barrier island officials and the public to a meeting (10/3/12) at the Anna Maria Island Community Center. Elliott Falcione, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director, and the rebranding consultant will be present.

Children's Summit

Barbara Harvey, School Board member, announced the Children's Summit will be held on October 6, 2012.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adj: 6:06 p.m.
/njh

Minutes Approved: November 27, 2012