

JULY 24, 1991

The Value Adjustment Board, Manatee County, Florida, met in SPECIAL SESSION in the Administrative Center, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, Wednesday, July 24, 1991, at 8:38 a.m.

## Present were Commissioners:

Maxine M. Hooper, Chairman ) representing the  
 Kent G. Chetlain ) Board of County  
 Kathy A. Snell, entered during the meeting) Commissioners

Ruby Byrd

) representing  
 ) Manatee County  
 ) School Board

## Absent was:

Elizabeth Nevin, School Board member

## Also present were:

Patricia McVoy, Assistant County Attorney  
 Susan G. French, Deputy Clerk, representing  
 R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court  
 Gary Knuckles, representing the Property Appraiser

Representatives of the various news media were present.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hooper.

SPECIAL MASTERS

Mrs. Hooper advised that the County Commission voted (7/9/91) to recommend to the Value Adjustment Board (VAB) that special masters be used to hear and determine petitions. She stated the VAB must make a final determination on whether or not to follow that recommendation.

Mrs. Byrd advised it was the decision of the School Board to support the recommendation of the County Commission.

It was decided that petitions relating to value could be determined by a special master leaving those petitions pertaining to exemptions to be heard by the VAB.

Should the VAB decide to use special masters, Patricia McVoy, Assistant County Attorney, advised the next step will be to publish a notice advising the professional organizations of the opportunity to serve.

(Ms. Snell entered during discussion)

Discussion: Notice should outline qualifications for an experienced individual; prepare questionnaire requesting additional information; survey of other counties using special masters; comparison of the number of hours of Board hearings to those for special masters; hourly rate of a special master; determination on petitions should remain a function of elected officials; elimination of political aspects from decisions; Florida Statute 194.035 provides for the appointment of special masters; VAB will be provided a copy of the petition with the special master's findings of fact/conclusions of law; VAB should make the final determination; VAB should establish rules and procedures for filing petitions, appealing special master determination; try special master on an experimental basis for one year.

Ms. McVoy recommended the Board authorize the use of a special master for agricultural and value related petitions.

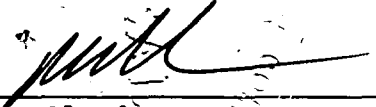
Ms. Snell so moved. Motion was seconded by Mr. Chetlain and carried 4 to 0.

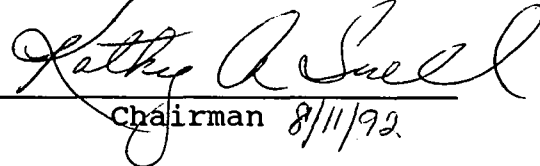
MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

APPROVED:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clerk

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairman 8/11/92

Adj: 9:15 a.m./rll