

Tuesday, May 2, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.
Grace Knight Conference Room
County Administration Building
12 Southeast First Street
Gainesville Florida

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners met for a General Policy Discussion.

PRESENT: Chair Ken Cornell, presiding, Vice-Chair Lee Pinkoson, Commissioners Mike Byerly, Charles S. "Chuck" Chestnut, IV, and Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Lee Niblock, County Attorney Michele Lieberman, Deputy Clerk Steve Donahey

The meeting was televised on Cox Cable Channel 12.

Chair Cornell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

1. Approve the agenda

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: A Motion to Approve the Agenda: (a) approves any amendments to the Agenda; and (b) adopts the Agenda.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved adoption of the agenda with the following amendments:

1. To recognize Alachua County Sheriff Darnell first to present comments.
2. After the Sheriff hear a presentation regarding contaminated soil.
3. Add an item regarding the extension of the Burn Ban.

The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Byerly out of the room.

Commissioner Byerly entered at 10:02 p.m.

Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell presented comments regarding the Florida Sheriff's Association opposition to the new Homestead Exemption proposal. She stated that the organization's members are working diligently to garner support against the bill.

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Sheriff Darnell also advised the Board that there is an immigration story that will be airing on CNN regarding the Sheriff's Office stance on immigration enforcement policy.

Sheriff Darnell stated that she provided her certified budget to the County early as requested by the County Manager. She is concerned that decisions have been made regarding funding priorities. She would request that the Board not make any decisions until the Constitutional Officers have a chance to present their budget requests.

County Manager Niblock advised the Sheriff that there have been no decisions made regarding funding priorities at this time. His staff is still in the beginning stages of reviewing the requested budgets. The reason for requesting the budgets be submitted early is to allow the Board more time to consider the budget matters.

Commissioner Hutchinson, Chair Cornell, County Manager Niblock, and Sheriff Darnell presented comments.

ADDED ITEM:

Soil Contamination

Mr. David O'Keefe and Ms. Joni Ellis stated that manure received from a local distributor seems to be contaminated with an herbicide that is damaging local gardens. They expressed concerns that the product is still being sold to unsuspecting customers who will use the product.

Commissioner Pinkoson and EPD Director Chris Bird presented comments.

Dean and Director of UF IFAS Extension Dr. Nick Place stated that the herbicide in question was used on an IFAS Field and that the manure was donated to a local distributor. He stated that IFAS has notified the proper entities of the matter and is working to determine where the manure was distributed to.

Dr. Jason Ferrell provided information regarding the effects of the herbicide. He stated that the potency of the herbicide is weak at this point. However, certain crops are especially susceptible to the product such as tomatoes and beans. Other crops such as melons and corn are not affected by the herbicide.

Commissioner Byerly requested IFAS determine where the manure was donated to and make that information available to the public so that they can make an informed decision.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to refer to the County Manager to work with the Environmental Protection Department, University of Florida IFAS, and the

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Agricultural Extension Office to bring back additional information for the Commission and the Public.

County Manager Niblock, County Attorney Lieberman, Commissioner Pinkoson, and Communications Coordinator Mark Sexton presented comments.

Dr. Place stated that his staff is working on a public statement regarding the situation and will make it available to the County to disseminate as well.

Commissioner Chestnut expressed concerns for health effects on any humans that may consume the products.

Dr. Jay Ferrell stated that the product works by affecting a hormone found only in plants and that there is no known risk to people with this product.

The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Proposed Items for Discussion

2. Fairgrounds discussion: Extension Services Space Requirements

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Have fairgrounds discussion: Extension Services space requirements

Dr. Cindy Sanders presented the above item.

Commissioner Hutchinson, Chair Cornell, County Attorney Lieberman, County Manager Niblock, Chair Cornell, Assistant County Manager Gina Peebles, County Manager Niblock, Commissioner Pinkoson, and IFAS Director Dr. Place presented comments.

3. Utility Surcharges

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Discuss utility surcharges.

Commissioner Pinkoson presented the above item.

County Attorney Lieberman, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Pinkoson, County Manager Niblock, and Chair Cornell presented comments.

Commissioner Byerly moved to authorize the County Manager and County Attorney to continue their research on the utility matters with the funding level to be within the County Manager's authorization.

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Commissioner Hutchinson, County Manager Lieberman, County Manager Niblock, Communications Coordinator Mark Sexton, Commissioner Chestnut, Director of Customer Services GRU Herb Firsching, and County Attorney Lieberman presented the above item.

Chair Cornell recognized Jim Konish and Jo Beaty presented comments.

The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Hutchinson voting “Nay”.

4. Building Permit Status Update

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Hear the presentation.

Zoning Administrator Holly Banner and Plans Examiner George Gillespie presented the above item.

Commissioner Hutchinson presented comments.

Commissioner Pinkoson moved to refer the matter to the County Manager to return to the Board with recommendations. The motion carried 5-0.

ACTION ITEMS

Fire Rescue

5. Purchase Agreement for Millhopper Road Property to Implement the Fire Rescue Master Plan

Fiscal Consideration: Purchase price of \$150,000.00 and related purchase costs. There are \$226,998 unallocated funds in the Fire Rescue Capital Improvement fund. Just Value from the Alachua County Property Appraiser for Parcel 06034010000 is \$46,700 and Parcel 06032001000 is \$15,000. Offered price to seller is \$150,000.

Recommended Action: Modify the Capital Improvement Program to include the purchase of this land. Approve the purchase agreement for the Millhopper Road property to implement the Fire Rescue Master Plan and authorize the Chair to execute any related documents to facilitate the purchase.

County Manager Niblock and Fire Chief Northcutt presented the above item.

Commissioner Byerly moved to modify the Capital Improvement Program to include the purchase of this land. Approve the purchase agreement for the Millhopper Road property to implement the Fire Rescue Master Plan and authorize the Chair to execute any related documents to facilitate the purchase at or below \$150,000.00.

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County Attorney Lieberman, Commissioner Hutchinson, and County Manager Niblock presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

Burn Ban Extension

Commissioner Byerly exited at 12:17 p.m.

Commissioner Pinkoson moved the following:

1. To approve the Burn Ban extension.
2. That future Burn Ban Extensions are placed on the Consent Agenda.
3. Direct staff to prepare an ordinance to delegate the authority of a burn ban to the Fire Chief.

The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Byerly out of the room.

Melrose Fire Station Letter

Fire Chief Northcutt distributed a letter to the Board regarding a funding proposal for the Melrose Fire Station.

Char Cornell stated that the letter will be discussed at the 1:30 p.m. meeting to allow time for the Commission to read the letter.

County Manager Niblock discussed his approach to purchasing properties in the future.

Commissioner Byerly entered 12:21 p.m.

Public Works

6. Road Priorities Discussion: Project Funding with Existing Budget
Fiscal Consideration: Approve budget amendment and amend Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) reducing the Transportation Trust Fund Reserves by \$649,644 and CR236 by \$873,046. Add to the CIP, the following projects and amounts. 9177902 NW 16th Ave Mill & Resurface: \$794,335 9177903 NW 69th Ter Mill & Resurface: \$160,000 917.7905 NW 94th Ave/NW 266th St Chip Seal: \$86,122 917.7906 NW 62nd Ave Chip Seal: \$172,229 917.7907 SW 202nd St Chip Seal: \$149,261 917.7908 SW 226th St Chip Seal: \$57,408

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Recommended Action: 1. Approve budget amendment to allocate existing budget to two (2) mill & resurface projects and four (4) chip seal projects. 2. Amend the 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan to include the new projects and reallocation.

County Engineer Ramon Gavarrete presented the above item.

Commissioner Byerly, Deputy County Manager Harriott, Commissioner Byerly, County Engineer Gavarrete, Commissioner Pinkoson, County Engineer Gavarrete, Commissioner Chestnut, OMB Director Crosby, County Manager Niblock, Chair Cornell, County Manager Niblock, and County Engineer Gavarrete presented comments.

Commissioner Byerly moved the following:

1. To direct staff to return with a new priority list that excludes for the time being projects that are in whole or in part within the limits of the City of Gainesville for the Board to approve.
2. Authorize the County Manager and Attorney to prepare a letter for the Board's consideration to the City of Gainesville indicating that the Board is willing to proceed with the two projects of 16th Avenue and NW 43rd Street on the condition that the City of Gainesville will take over the road upon completion.
3. Proceed with Tower Road as the new priority rather than 43rd Street.
4. Approve the Chip Seal Project recommendations.

Chair Cornell recognized Kristen Young who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Byerly, County Engineer Gavarrete, Commissioner Hutchinson, County Engineer Gavarrete, Deputy County Manager Harriott, Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Chestnut, and Chair Cornell presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

CLOSING COMMENTS

7. Public Comments

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Hear Public Comments.

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Chair Cornell recognized Kristen Young and Donald Sheppard who presented comments to the Board.

8. Commission Comments

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Hear Commission comments.

Commissioner Byerly discussed the funding request for a new Floor at the County Tipping Floor at the County Transfer Station.

Commissioner Byerly further stated that he has been traveling the County to research water quality projects. He stated that he has seen several locations where Best Management practices for cattle operations are not being followed. He stated there are several cattle grazing fields that have not fenced off creeks and water bodies as required and he would like the County to take the steps necessary to bring the operations into compliance.

Commissioner Byerly moved to refer to staff the task of identifying water bodies that should be protected by Best Management Practices but are not and return to the Board. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Byerly also advised the Board that in his travels around the County he has found several roads that are being maintained at public expense that are essentially a drive way for a few homes. He would like to investigate the possibility of vacating the roads.

County Attorney Lieberman stated that there are a few different possible situations that could exist at these locations. She would like to speak with Commissioner Byerly about specific locations to determine if these roads fall under certain scenarios.

By Consensus the Board agreed to schedule this matter at the Board's next Policy Discussion.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.