

Monday, April 17, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.
Putnam County Commission Chambers
2509 Crill Avenue Suite 100
Palatka, FL 32177

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners met for the Special Meeting.

PRESENT: Chair Ken Cornell, Vice-Chair Lee Pinkoson, Commissioners Mike Byerly and Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson

Chair Larry Harvey, Vice-Chair Buddy Goddard, Commissioners Bill Pickens and Chip Laibl

ABSENT: Commissioner Chuck Chestnut

Commissioner Tommy Stilwell

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Dr. Lee Niblock, County Attorney Michele Lieberman, Assistant County Manager Gina Peebles, Deputy Clerk Steve Donahey

The meeting was televised on Cox Cable Channel 12.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Larry Harvey called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION:

1. Larry Harvey, Chairman, Putnam County Commission
Fiscal Consideration: N/A
Recommended Action: Hear opening remarks by Chairman Larry Harvey.
2. Ken Cornell, Chair, Alachua County Commission
Fiscal Consideration: N/A
Recommended Action: Hear opening remarks by Chair Cornell.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Chip Laibl moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Cornell recognized Karin Chadwick and Jill McGuire who presented comments to the Boards.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3. Water resources

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Discuss water resources.

Chair Harvey presented the above item for discussion.

Chair Cornell, Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Laibl, Chair Cornell, Commissioner Pinkoson and Chair Harvey presented comments.

4. Landfill opportunities

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Discuss landfill opportunities.

Putnam County Solid Waste Director Larry Gast presented the above item to the Boards.

Mr. Gast advised the Board that there may be an opportunity for the Putnam County and Alachua County to work together regarding solid waste. Putnam is currently upgrading the land fill so that it will be a lined facility and is looking to increase the tonnage at the facility. Putnam is aware of Alachua County's Request for Proposals (R.F.P.) regarding solid waste and would like to be considered as a possible solution to Alachua County waste disposal issue.

Chair Cornell, Commissioner Laibl, County Manager Lee Niblock, and Deputy County Manager Jim Harriott, Chair Harvey, Commissioner Byerly, Chair Harvey, County Manager Niblock and County Attorney Stacey Manning presented comments.

Biomass Power Plant Discussion

A general discussion regarding the cost and operation of the GREC Biomass Plant in the City of Gainesville ensued.

Commissioner Laibl, Chair Cornell, Commissioner Laibl, Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Pinkoson, Commissioner Laibl, Commissioner Buddy Goddard and Chair Cornell presented comments.

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5. Melrose Fire Department

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Discuss the Melrose Fire Department.

Putnam County Fire Chief Quin Romay presented the above item to the Boards.

A general discussion regarding the funding of the Melrose Fire Station which serves both Putnam and Alachua County ensued.

Commissioner Hutchinson, Chair Cornell, Melrose Fire Chief Joe Clark, Chair Cornell, Chair Harvey, Putnam County Fire Chief Romay, Chair Harvey, Alachua County Fire Chief Bill Northcutt, Chair Cornell, Alachua County Fire Chief Northcutt, Melrose Volunteer Fire Department President Bobby Brown, Commissioner Bill Pickens, Melrose Fire Chief Clark, Putnam County Fire Chief Romay, Chair Harvey, Commissioner Byerly, Putnam County Fire Chief Romay and Commissioner Byerly presented comments.

6. General discussion by Commissioners

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Have general discussion among the Commissioners.

I-75 Relief

The Putnam County Commission requested to hear Alachua County's position on the proposed Interstate 75 Relief Project that the State of Florida is planning.

Chair Harvey, Chair Cornell, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Pinkoson, Commissioner Byerly, Chair Cornell, Chair Harvey, Commissioner Byerly and Commissioner Pinkoson presented comments.

Ecotourism and Trails

Commissioner Laibl and St. John's River Water Management District Kraig McLane presented a discussion regarding opportunities for both County's to Jointly request grant funding for trails and ecotourism opportunities.

Commissioner Byerly, Chair Cornell, Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Laibl, Chair Harvey and Commissioner Laibl presented comments.

Planning and DOT Districts

Commissioner Laibl stated that Putnam County's State Representatives are to the west towards Alachua County. However, the FDOT district heads east towards Jacksonville. Putnam County is interested in trying to align with the FDOT District of Alachua County. It would seem to make sense to have some collaboration since there

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are project opportunities between the two counties. He advised that Putnam is interested in obtaining a vote on the district.

Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Laibl, Chair Cornell and Alachua County Deputy County Manager Jim Harriott presented comments.

Transportation Disadvantage

A general discussion took place regarding the difficulties Putnam County is experiencing transporting people from Putnam County to Alachua County.

Chair Harvey, Commissioner Hutchinson, and Commissioner Laibl presented comments.

Health Insurance

Commissioner Pickens presented the above item to the Boards.

A general discussion regarding the insurance structure and services that Alachua County provides to their employees took place.

Commissioner Byerly, Alachua County Manager Niblock, Chair Harvey, Alachua County Manager Niblock, Commissioner Pickens, Chair Harvey, Alachua County Manager Niblock, Commissioner Laibl, Alachua County Manager Niblock, Chair Cornell, Commissioner Pinkoson and Chair Harvey presented comments.

Public Comments

Chair Cornell recognized Linda Kemp, Ruth Berkelman, Judy McFadden, Laura Bramhall Karen Chadwick, Commissioner Pinkoson, EPD Director Chris Bird, Jill McGuire and William Rudolf Dampier Jr. who presented comments to the Boards.

CLOSING COMMENTS

7. Closing comments by the County Attorneys

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Hear closing comments from the attorneys for Putnam County and Alachua County.

County Attorney Michele Lieberman, Chair Cornell, County Attorney Lieberman and Country Attorney Stacy Manning present comments.

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8. Closing comments by the County Administrator and County Manager

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Hear closing comments from the County Administrator for Putnam County and County Manager for Alachua County.

County Manager Niblock and Country Manager Poppeo presented comments.

9. Closing comments by the County Commissioners

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Hear closing comment from the Putnam County Commissioners and the Alachua County Commissioners.

Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Pickens, Commissioner Goddard, Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Laibl, Commissioner Pinkoson, Chair Cornell and Chair Harvey presented comments.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.