

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**SARASOTA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER
1660 RINGLING BOULEVARD
A/B CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR
SARASOTA, FLORIDA**

9:00 a.m.

Nora Patterson, Chair, District 4
Shannon Staub, Vice Chair, District 3
Paul H. Mercier, District 1
Joseph A. Barbetta, District 2
Jon Thaxton, District 5

Also present were:

James Ley, County Administrator
David Bullock, Deputy County Administrator
Susan Scott, Deputy County Administrator
Stephen DeMarsh, County Attorney
Kathleen Schneider, Deputy County Attorney
Claudia Goodson, Deputy Clerk
Spring Dickson, Deputy Clerk

BUDGET WORKSHOP

(9:12:18)

1. ADMINISTRATION

The Board considered approving participation in the State of Florida Division of Elections Voting Machine Acquisition Program.

Staff Presenters: County Administrator James Ley, Deputy County Administrator Susan Scott, Financial Planning Asset General Manager Dale Roberts, and Deputy County Attorney Kathleen Schneider

9:18:36 Board Action: Authorized the County Administrator to begin negotiations with Diebold Election Systems for the purchase of its optical scan voting system, as presented/outlined by Staff this date. Moved by Staub, seconded by Mercier, carried by a 5-0 vote.

9:18:36 Board Action: Authorized the execution of the County Certification document acknowledging the County's intent to participate in the Statutory State Funding Program for optical scan voting and ballot-on-demand equipment. Moved by Staub, seconded by Mercier, carried by a 5-0 vote.

9:22:47 Board Action: Requested copies of correspondence/e-mail from the Florida Secretary of State relative to requirements regarding the purchase of the new version voting machines by the August 28, 2008, Election and noted that the County would not receive funding if old voting machines are purchased. Requested by Thaxton, without objection.

9:25:17 Board Action: Requested clarification regarding the disposal and the proceeds/reimbursement from the sale of the existing voting machines. Requested by Mercier, without objection.

(9:45:49)

2. FINANCIAL PLANNING

The Board considered the development of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Budget.

Staff Presenters: County Administrator James Ley, Deputy County Administrator David Bullock, Chief Financial Planning Officer Jeffrey Seward, County Attorney Stephen DeMarsh, Public Works Executive Director Jim Harriott, Community Services Parks and Recreation General Manager John McCarthy, Planning and Development Services Neighborhood Services Manager Jane Grogg, and Emergency Services Fire Chief Brian Gorski

Public Presenter: Health and Human Services Social Services General Manager Charles Taylor

Items submitted: Copy of County Administrator Ley's comments, a copy of the FY 2008 Working Budget Executive Summary, copies of documents entitled "Property Tax Constitutional Amendment - SJR 4" and "BCC Workshop - Decision Worksheet", a copy of an Interoffice Memorandum entitled "Sheriff's Budget"

10:01:10 Board Action: Requested that the County Administrator review the proposed FY 2008 Budget Election audit costs with the Supervisor of Elections. Requested by Patterson, without objection.

10:25:08 Board Action: Requested clarification of the FY 2007 Adopted Net Budget versus the FY 2008 Proposed Net Budget costs for Elected/Appointed Officials. Requested by Staub, without objection.

10:30:54 Board Action: Requested an e-mail providing a breakdown of the BCC (Board of County Commissioner) Initiatives listed on the FY 2008 Budget Framework, Phase I - Increases/Reductions Table. Requested by Staub, without objection.

10:38:11 Board Action: Requested a review/discussion with the Constitutional Officers regarding an overall maintenance/purchase program relative to government vehicles. Requested by Staub, without objection.

10:40:39 Board Action: Directed the County Administrator to send correspondence, following the Board's Budget deliberations, to the Governor, the Florida Senate President, and the Florida House Speaker advising of the Board's evaluation of the County's Budget for efficiencies, suggesting that the State/Governor undertake an evaluation of State Departments/Staff, and offering the Board's assistance in the evaluation process. Moved by Staub, seconded by Thaxton, failed by a 2-3 vote; Patterson, Mercier, and Thaxton voted "No."

10:43:34 Board Action: Requested that the County Administrator review the Call Center system regarding the information/assistance provided to citizens. Requested by Staub, without objection.

RECESS: 10:47 a.m. - 10:59 a.m.

11:05:38 Board Action: Requested clarification of Phase 1, Revenue-Related Policy Decisions, Currently Dedicated Revenue, regarding the use of telecommunications tax for transportation operations/Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and the funding ratio of Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) versus street operations. Requested by Patterson and Thaxton, without objection.

11:20:11 Board Action: Requested review of Phase 1, Revenue-Related Policy Decisions, Limited Use Revenue regarding the half-cent Tourist Development Tax (TDT) dedications to tourist promotions and to the proposed stadium. Requested by Patterson, without objection.

2. FINANCIAL PLANNING - Continued

11:22:28 Board Action: Requested clarification/review of the proposed Park CIP in the Range of Allowable Uses of the TDT. Requested by Staub, without objection.

11:22:54 Board Action: Requested that the County Administrator contact the City of Sarasota regarding the status of the proposed stadium. Requested by Patterson, without objection.

11:37:30 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to review Phase 1, Revenue-Related Policy Decisions, Limited Use Revenue, regarding the General Revenue amounts (\$249,601.00) for the Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

11:43:19 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to review/consider Phase 1, Revenue-Related Policy Decisions, Limited Use Revenue, regarding the SCAT Fees for Service including a comparison report on the ridership fees charged by other Florida counties.

11:44:41 Board Action: Requested clarification of the Phase 1, Revenue-Related Policy Decisions, Limited Use Revenue, Human Services Contract, regarding Strategic Initiatives and Opportunity (SIO) Fund commitments to the Community Alternative Residential Treatment (CART) Program and other non-profit programs. Requested by Staub, without objection.

11:50:41 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to review/consider reductions in the Grants-In-Aid and SIO Fund allocations.

11:52:11 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to not review/consider Phase 1, Revenue-Related Policy Decisions, New and Enhanced Revenue Opportunities, Levy of Municipal/Public Service Tax.

12:03:59 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to review/consider Phase 1, Revenue-Related Policy Decisions, New and Enhanced Revenue Opportunities, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS).

1:45:34 Board Action: Requested a report regarding uses required to determine submittal of an application for the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) Grant. Requested by Thaxton, without objection.

RECESS: 12:04 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

2:02:40 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider potential revenues/user fees pertaining to Beach Use, Community Services Initiatives, Parks Facility Usage/Concession, and new fees for Athletic Facilities.

2:11:05 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider the Telecommunication Tax and Transportation Ad Valorem Tax as General Revenue in competition with other operating funds for SCAT, road maintenance, or libraries.

2:22:18 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider the utilization of TDT funds for beach maintenance, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00.

2:32:18 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider the General Fund Special One-Time Revenue Reserves.

2:35:13 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider retaining the Other Special Reserves/Community Reinvestment, Waterline, and Parks and Recreation.

2:35:55 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider/review the Housing Fund/expenditures on affordable housing.

2:39:05 Board Action: Requested a report on the need for affordable housing based on Area Median Income (AMI). Requested by Thaxton, without objection.

2:47:26 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider the General Revenue CIP for Parks and Facilities.

2:59:27 Board Action: Requested a report evaluating the possibility of utilizing a percentage of the interest earned from the Reserve Fund for ad valorem relief and the balance for continuing to build the Reserve Fund. Requested by Mercier, without objection.

RECESS: 3:02 p.m. - 3:22 p.m.

2. FINANCIAL PLANNING - Continued

4:05:14 Board Action: The Board participated in an electronic voting/tabulation system to determine the Board's position/opinion on the percentage of the community that values County services and the impact discontinuing services would have on the community in the Outcome Areas listed in the Staff report.

4:22:50 Board Action: Requested Board support to send the Interoffice Memorandum from Commr. Staub entitled "Sheriff's Budget" to the Sheriff. Requested by Staub, without objection.

The Board participated in an electronic voting/tabulation system to determine the Board's position to consider the potential service cutbacks and funding reductions in the FY 2008 Budget relative to the Sub-Items as listed in Phases III and IV of Staff's report. Deputy County Administrator David Bullock advised that the tabulation results would be provided to the Board at the June 20, 2007, Budget Workshop.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

(9:08:47)

A. ADMINISTRATION

County Administrator James Ley presented and discussions were held on Exchange Petition No. EX 05-23 and the presentation of an Outstanding Achievement in Local Government to Sarasota County for Roadway to Sustainability Award at a recent Alliance for Innovation meeting.

Item submitted: A copy of Staff's report regarding Exchange Petition No. EX 05-23

9:09:18 Board Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2007-138 establishing a time and place for consideration of Exchange Petition No. EX 05-23 to vacate and abandon the County's interest in a portion of a roadway known as Ram Bowl Way (Rexrode Road) lying within Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Block 1, Sarasota-Venice Company's River Subdivision, in exchange for lands owned by the Sarasota County School Board to facilitate the development of the Riverview High School campus and provide additional right-of-way for Lords Avenue and a portion of Proctor Road. Moved by Staub, seconded by Thaxton, carried by a 5-0 vote.

(9:30:51)

B. CHAIR PATTERSON

Chair Patterson presented and discussions were held on proposed Legislation regarding condominium sales and municipality participation/funding options relative to the proposed jail and the Court system.

9:31:38 Board Action: Directed the County Administrator to draft correspondence for the Chair's signature for submittal to the Governor requesting a veto of the Legislative Bill regarding the forced sale of condominiums if 80 percent of the condominium owners agree. Moved by Staub, seconded by Barbeta, carried by a 5-0 vote.

9:42:55 Board Action: Directed the County Administrator to draft correspondence for the Chair's signature for submittal to the area municipalities requesting their input/preference on funding options/sources to address a proposed jail facility and Court system costs and their support of a referendum should it occur. Directed by Patterson, without objection.

3. OTHER BUSINESS - Continued

(4:57:00)

C. ADMINISTRATION

4:57:16 Board Action: Noted the cancellation of the June 22, 2007, Budget Workshop.
Noted by Patterson, without objection.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 4:59 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: _____

Chair