

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Restaurant
Lake City, Florida

April 24, 2003
8:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Tony Domenech, City of Gainesville
Dixie Donovan, Columbia County
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Steve Futch, City of Starke
Gail Garrard, Lafayette County
Alan Hammock, Union County
John Hersey, Bradford County
James King, Madison County
Ray Kirkland, City of Lake City
Eddie Martin, Hawthorne
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Emory Philman, Gilchrist County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Tamara Robbins, City of Alachua
Edd Sadler, Taylor County
Lorraine Thomas, Dixie County
Myra Valentine, City of Madison
Penny Wheat, Alachua County

STAFF PRESENT

Robin Barnes
Charles Justice
Scott Koons
Carol Laine

MEMBERS ABSENT

William Alexander, City of Perry
John Carlson, Alachua County
Chuck Chestnut, City of Gainesville
Cynthia Moore Chestnut, Alachua County
Bill Coughlin, City of High Springs
Minnie Crevasse, Alachua County
David Dodge, Bradford County
John Driggers, Dixie County
Mitchell Gentry, Gilchrist County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Grady Hartzog, City of Newberry
Matthew Hawkins, City of Jasper
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
L. B. Nelson, City of Archer
Paul L. Remzey Samarra, Town of Micanopy
Douglas Udell, Suwannee County
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Joye Brown, DOT

GUESTS PRESENT

Diana Davis
Ron McQueen
Jon Wershow

Board Members names are bolded

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., noting a quorum was present.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 27, 2003

Chairman Davis asked that the minutes of the February 27, 2003 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Commissioner Martin made the motion, with a second by Mayor Kirkland, to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2003, meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

II. CONSENT AGENDA - None

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Louie Davis

A. Resolution of Appreciation for John Cooper

Chairman Davis asked that a resolution of appreciation for past services as a member of the Planning Council be approved for Commissioner John Cooper from Bradford County.

ACTION: Commissioner Montgomery made the motion, with a second by Mayor Futch, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for John Cooper. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Introduction of New Member

Chairman Davis introduced and welcomed a new member from Bradford County, Commissioner John Hersey.

Chairman Davis stated that Commissioner Vaughn requested that he be replaced as Vice-Chairman of the Clearinghouse Committee. Chairman Davis asked that the Council appoint Commissioner Chuck Chestnut to the position of Vice-Chairman of the Clearinghouse Committee.

ACTION: Mayor Futch made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to approve the appointment of Commissioner Chuck Chestnut to the position of Vice-Chairman of the Clearinghouse Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Health Insurance Proposal

Mr. Justice reported that Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BC/BS) has proposed a significant increase in premiums for the employee insurance package for the coming year. He stated that the total increase in cost to the Council would be approximately \$1,135 per month, or an increase of about 16.1%. He added that due to turnover in three staff positions, resulting in reduced pension payments, the net cost of all fringe benefits for next year should remain at the same level as the current year. He reported that the Executive Committee had recommended that the Council renew the employee insurance package contract with BC/BS for the coming year beginning June 1, 2003.

ACTION: Commissioner Sadler made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Montgomery, to renew the employee insurance package contract with BC/BS for the coming year beginning June 1, 2003. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Beginning Council Meetings at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Justice stated that at the last meeting a request was made to consider changing the starting time of monthly Council meetings from 8:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. He reported that the Executive Committee had recommended that, on a trial basis, the starting time of the monthly Council meeting be changed to 7:30 p.m.

ACTION: Mayor Kirkland made the motion, with a second by Mayor Futch, to change the starting time of monthly Council meetings from 8:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Proposal to Change Form of Local Technical Services Contracts to "Fixed Fee"

Mr. Justice reported that for many years the Council has provided local comprehensive planning technical services on the basis of hourly charges for work done. He added that due to fewer local contracts and a smaller Council budget, this method of charging has become more problematic. To resolve the problems involved in hourly billing, Mr. Justice stated that staff recommended that the Council establish a fixed amount for the services to be provided to the individual local governments, with the amount being based upon expenditures for services during previous years

and that the contracting local governments would be billed in equal amounts on a quarterly basis. He stated that this method of billing would simplify the financial aspects of the local planning services, allow for more consistent budgeting for the services provided and eliminate a number of cash flow issues. Mr. Justice reported that the Executive Committee had recommended that the Council change the method of charging for comprehensive planning technical services to fixed fee contracts.

ACTION: Commissioner Martin made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Sadler, to change the method of charging member local governments for comprehensive planning technical services to fixed fee contracts. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Proposal to Change SBA "504" Loan Service for Region

Mr. Justice stated that the Council created the North Central Florida Areawide Development Company, Inc. (ADCO) as a means of establishing a vehicle to make available Small Business Administration loans to small businesses located in the area's 17 counties served by ADCO. He stated that the total business development resulting from these loans has totaled some \$35 million with the current ADCO loan portfolio at \$10 million.

Mr. Justice reported that as a result of changes that are likely to be made in the 504 Program, ADCO will become much less competitive and it will become more difficult to support this service. He stated that two certified development companies have made inquiries and may be interested in taking over the territory presently served by ADCO. He stated that such a move would improve the quality of service, eliminate the Council's subsidy of the program and possibly repay some of the past subsidies that have gone into the program. Mr. Justice reported that the Executive Committee had recommended that staff be authorized to negotiate with the Board of Directors of ADCO and other certified development companies in an attempt to create a better service option for providing SBA "504" loans to the region's small businesses.

ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Sadler, to authorize staff to negotiate with the Board of Directors of ADCO and other certified development companies in an attempt to create a better service option for providing SBA "504" loans to the region's small businesses. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - None

V. PRESENTATION ON REGIONAL HAZMAT RESPONSE TEAM - Ron McQueen,
Gilchrist County Emergency Management Director

Chairman Davis introduced Mr. Ron McQueen, Gilchrist County Emergency Management Director, who then gave a presentation on the North Central Florida Regional Hazmat Response Team. Mr. McQueen stated that there are 5 counties and 3 municipalities that are currently members of the Team. He stated that the purpose of the Hazmat Response Team is to render a hazardous materials emergency safe for cleanup. He discussed the classes that are offered to the local fire departments and emergency medical personnel and the hours of training involved to certify the different levels of a regional hazmat team. Mr. McQueen added that with the adoption of the revised Interlocal Agreement by the eight original members, any local government within the Council's jurisdiction can join the Team by adopting a resolution. Chairman Davis thanked Mr. McQueen for his presentation.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. DRI Status

1. Current Review

Mr. Justice reported that Springhills has submitted the first revisions for their Development of Regional Impact. He stated that nothing further has been received from Avmed and that there may be a preapplication conference this summer for Butler Plaza.

2. Fee Challenge

Mr. Wershow stated that the trial date for the Alachua West fee challenge has been set for June 11-13, 2003.

B. Legislative Report

Mr. Justice reported that the funding situation has not changed with the Senate budget allocating \$1.5 million for regional planning councils and the House budget at \$2.0 million.

Mr. Justice indicated that the House is proposing to shift documentary stamp funds from the affordable housing Sadowsky Trust Fund to the general fund. He further reported that the \$200 million will be moved from the Transportation Trust Fund to the general fund and bonds will be issued to cover the use of the Transportation Trust Fund monies.

Mr. Justice further reported that the Florida Economic Development Council will conduct an economic development workshop before the next Council meeting at the Lake City Holiday Inn on May 22, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. He stated that staff will be sending a notice concerning this workshop to the Economic Development Partnership and Council members with the next Council packet.

Chairman Davis stated that next meeting would begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Lake City on May 22, 2003.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Chairman

Date