



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FINAL MINUTES
5/15/2020 9:00 AM

MINUTES

JOHN F. & RITA M. ARMSTRONG WING OF THE BLAKE LIBRARY
2351 SE MONTEREY ROAD, STUART, FLORIDA 34996

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Harold E. Jenkins II, Chairman
Stacey Hetherington, Vice Chair
Doug Smith
Sarah Heard
Edward V. Ciampi

Taryn Kryzda, County Administrator
Sarah W. Woods, County Attorney
Carolyn Timmann, Clerk of the Circuit Court and
Comptroller

COVID-19 Update

CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Chairman Harold E. Jenkins II
Vice Chair Stacey Hetherington
Commissioner Doug Smith
Commissioner Sarah Heard
Commissioner Edward V. Ciampi

1. MOMENT OF SILENCE
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ADDITIONAL ITEM
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Ciampi, to approve the agenda [agenda with the additional item DEPT-2]. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Jenkins II, Vice Chair Hetherington, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Heard, and Commissioner Ciampi

COMMENTS

1. PUBLIC - PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS TO THREE MINUTES.

None at this time.

2. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Hetherington requested that staff invite Tax Collector Ruth Pietruszewski to the next Board meeting to provide a brief update regarding licenses and her office operations.

3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

None at this time.

DEPARTMENTAL

ADMINISTRATION

DEPT-1 CORONAVIRUS (AKA COVID-19) UPDATE

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a special meeting to discuss County matters relating to the Coronavirus. Staff will provide an update on local efforts and coordination taking place.

Agenda Item: 20-0706

Cleveland Clinic Martin Health President Rob Lord spoke about the increased number of COVID-positive patients. He urged the importance of social distancing and continuing to wear masks. He announced that 400+ people in East Stuart had been tested; they were waiting on the results. He informed the Board that they had expanded criteria for surgeries and amended their visitation policy. He spoke about reduced emergency room visits and urged people not to avoid going to the hospital. He announced that there were a total of 11 COVID patients in the hospital (North and Tradition).

Florida Department of Health Martin County Health Officer Carolann Vitani thanked their partners in the community and provided updated COVID numbers for the Board: 43,210 positive cases in the state and 281 in Martin County. She announced that they were doing testing throughout the county as well as reaching out to long term care facilities to provide testing for staff and clients. She urged everyone to continue to take preventative measures and provided the website for COVID information: www.martinhealth.org.

Emergency Management Director Michelle Jones announced that the governor had authorized barber shops and salons that adopt proper social distancing guidelines to reopen and extended the executive order regarding foreclosures and evictions. She reminded everyone that hurricane season was just two weeks away and that it was time

to reevaluate their disaster supply kits. She urged everyone to register for AlertMartin to receive weather updates and important public safety notifications at www.martin.fl.us/alertmartin.

The following member of the public addressed the Board on this item: Mike Taylor. Assistant County Administrator George Stokus read public comment emails into the record.

LEAGUE SPORTS

Commissioner Ciampi spoke about allowing baseball and softball leagues to begin again.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Ciampi to allow league play for baseball and softball. He later withdrew this motion.

Agenda Item: 20-0706

County Attorney Sarah Woods cautioned the Board that the governor had not authorized the counties to go back to league play. Assistant County Administrator George Stokus informed the Board that under the Opening Up America Again guidelines put out by the White House, to which the governor had referred, schools and organized youth activities should remain closed. He further informed them that staff did anticipate that in the near future, the governor would be moving us into Phase II, when those activities would be allowed.

Frontline Athlete Management Partner and General Counsel Mark Rogers addressed the Board in support of opening up all league sports and spoke about the Little League Board's 18 Rules and Regulations for league sports.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Smith, that when the governor's order allows for field sports, that staff be authorized to immediately begin the procedures of opening all league fields, following CDC guidelines, and notify all of our leagues of our actions. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Jenkins II, Vice Chair Hetherington, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Heard, and Commissioner Ciampi

Agenda Item: 20-0706

HOBE SOUND BEACH

The Board discussed when to reopen the Hobe Sound beach, considering that Palm Beach County beaches were still closed. The Board will discuss the issue again during their next regular Board of County Commissioners meeting (May 19th).

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Ciampi that, based on the decisions that are made in Palm Beach County in regards to opening their county beaches, our staff would be authorized to work with Martin County Sheriff and Jupiter [Island] Police to reopen the Hobe Sound beach. He later withdrew this motion.

PUBLIC WORKS

DEPT-2 WATER SAVINGS CLAUSE APPLICATION TO LAKE OKEECHOBEE SYSTEM OPERATING MANUAL

Recently, there have been efforts to extend the "Savings Clause" in Water Resources Development Act ("WRDA") 2000 to the ongoing development of the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual ("LOSOM") being conducted pursuant WRDA 2018 and other federal law including the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"). Staff is requesting a Chair letter be sent to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and our congressional delegation.

Agenda Item: 20-0733

Senior Assistant County Attorney Ruth Holmes presented the item to the Board. Public Works Director Jim Gorton and Ecosystem Restoration and Management Manager John Maehl assisted with Board questions.

Staff recommended that the Board send a letter to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Army Corps of Engineers, and our congressional delegation stating that "the WRDA 2000 Savings Clause does not apply to LOSOM."

South Florida Water Management District Governing Board Member Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch informed the Board that the discussion at the SFWMD's (May 18th) meeting was in favor of supporting the US Army Corps of Engineers in its decision to have the Savings Clause separate from LOSOM.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Heard, seconded by Vice Chair Hetherington, to adopt the letter. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Jenkins II, Vice Chair Hetherington, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Heard, and Commissioner Ciampi

ADJOURN

The Board of County Commissioners COVID-19 Update meeting of March 15, 2020 adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Carolyn Timmann, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and Comptroller
/mkv

Harold E. Jenkins, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes approved:

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