

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA

COURTHOUSE ANNEX

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015

9:00 A.M.

The Board of County Commissioners of Madison County, Florida met this day in Regular Session with the following members present: Justin Hamrick (District 1), Wayne Vickers (District 2), Ronnie L. Moore (District 3), Alfred Martin (District 4), and Rick Davis (District 5). Also present were County Coordinator Allen Cherry, Assistant County Coordinator Sherilyn Pickels, County Attorney George T. Reeves, and County Clerk Tim Sanders.

The Chairman, Honorable Ronnie L. Moore, called the meeting to order and called the roll.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hamrick, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the agenda as amended: at the request of Mr. Cherry, add to Public Works Department item No. 3. Consideration of request to declare equipment surplus; and, add to New Business item No. 2. Update by Property Appraiser Leigh Barfield on Nestle Waters valuation lawsuit; and add to New Business item No. 3. Consideration of request by Tax Collector to declare workstations and cabinets surplus; and at the request of the Clerk add to new Business item No. 4. Presentation of Proclamation by Senator Bill Montford.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 10, 2014 were presented for review. Upon a motion by Commissioner Hamrick, seconded by Commissioner Martin, the Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve said minutes as presented.

Chief Deputy Epp Richardson gave the Board an update on the purchase of equipment to enhance security in the Madison County Court House. He reported the equipment, which includes an x-ray machine and metal detector, should be in place at the west door entrance to the Courthouse in the next couple of weeks.

Property Appraiser Leigh Barfield gave the Board an update on a lawsuit filed by Nestle Waters in regards to the Property Appraiser's valuation of the plant structure and surrounding

property in Madison County. She also presented a spreadsheet with assessment and ad valorem tax data on the Nestle Waters plant structure, and an attached drawing of said building's floor plan. Mrs. Barfield reported a similar lawsuit was filed by Nestle in 2007 and a settlement was reached with a value in the amount of \$44 million for the initial structure and addition. She added that in 2014 Nestle filed a petition to the Value Adjustment Board (VAB) with a value of \$22.5 million, which based upon the current millage would have a negative ad valorem tax impact in the amount of \$194,647.65 to the County and \$142,209.57 to the School District. Mrs. Barfield explained that her attorneys are working with her at this time and asked the Board if it wished to proceed with the lawsuit.

Mr. Reeves advised in the earlier lawsuit the County and School District split the costs of the lawsuit and based upon the potential negative impact for not only this year, but years to come, advised the Board to continue with the lawsuit. A motion was made by Commissioner Hamrick and seconded by Commissioner Vickers for the Board to continue with said lawsuit and allow Mr. Reeves to intervene, and also ask the School District to assist in defraying costs of the lawsuit. Motion carried 5-0. It was noted that Nestle Waters has paid their ad valorem taxes this year with a \$29,000 discount. Mr. Reeves advised the Suwannee River Water Management District, as a recipient of Madison County ad valorem taxes, would probably not get involved in the lawsuit, but he would ask the Executive Director.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Vickers, seconded by Commissioner Martin, the Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Consent Agenda (1. Reappointment of Richard Williams, Daniel Plain, and Jayson Williams to the Competency Board; 2. Reappointment of Brent Whitman, Mike Holton, and Christy Grass to the Planning and Zoning Board; 3. Approval of Budget Amendment Request from Madison County Development Council for \$2,596.06; 4. Approval of Emergency Medical Services request for Accounts Receivable Write-Offs; 5. Approval of Sheriff's Department Confiscated Currency Expenditure in the amount of \$30,106.00; 6. Approval of Sheriff's Department Confiscated Currency Expenditure in the amount of \$1,890.00; 7. Approval of Cooperative Equipment Load Agreement between Madison County and the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service; 8. Proclamation declaring January 5th-9th Florida First Responder Appreciation Week).

Under Public Works Department, Commissioner Martin reported a request for installation of speed bumps on SW Happy Street. He also stated that part of the street already has some. County Road & Bridge Department Coordinator Lonnie Thigpen explained the County's Speed Bump Policy that requires a traffic count and notification of area residents. Upon a motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vickers, the Board voted unanimously to proceed with Speed Bump Policy process.

Mr. Thigpen also presented to the Board a letter dated January 14, 2015 regarding a bid award recommendation and an attached BID SUMMARY SHEET (Bid Number 2015-06) for One (1) New Current Model Backhoe/Loader. Mr. Thigpen reported (3) bids were received from Flagler Construction Equipment for a Volvo BL70B, Ring Power Corporation for a Caterpillar

420F, and Beard Equipment Company for a John Deere 310SL. He explained all three models met specifications and all companies bid not only a cash purchase price with guaranteed buy-back, but also an annual lease rate for a five year period. Mr. Thigpen recommended the John Deere Model 310SL, the lowest bid for five annual payments in the amount of \$11,752.32, since the current 2014-2015 fiscal year budget was proposed and approved with lease option funding. Mr. Thigpen also reported the County will have to borrow the buy-back machine on premises from Beard Equipment until the new machine is available in a few weeks. A motion was made by Commissioner Vickers and seconded by Commissioner Hamrick to approve the low bid by Beard Equipment for the John Deere 310SL Backhoe/Loader as recommended. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Thigpen also presented the following list of Road & Bridge Department equipment for the Board to consider as surplus:

1. Bomag Compactor
2. 2000 Ford F-150 pick-up
3. 1996 Chevrolet pick-up

Upon a motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Vickers, the Board voted unanimously to approve said items as surplus and allow the items to be put up for sale.

Mr. Cherry referred to a proposed NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA and noted a potential conflict of the scheduled first meeting in November (November 11, 2015) and Veterans Day. A motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Martin to schedule only one meeting in November on November 18th at 9:00 a.m. and approve the proposed schedule of meetings as amended. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Cherry also reported that as a result of improvements to the Tax Collector's office, several replaced cabinets and work stations have been removed and are now in storage. Upon a motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Vickers, the Board voted unanimously to declare said furniture surplus and to dispose after offering said items to other public agencies.

Mr. Sanders reported Senator Bill Montford planned to attend the Board meeting, but called the evening before not feeling well and asked him to present and read for the record A FLORIDA SENATOR'S PROCLAMATION recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Madison County Courthouse by Senator Bill Montford of Florida Senate District 3.

Mr. Cherry reported representatives of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be making an on-site visit to the Madison County Landfill as part of their 5-year review on Tuesday, January 20th.

Mr. Sanders also invited the Commissioners to the Annual Golden Apple Teacher of the Year Banquet hosted by the Madison County Foundation for Excellence in Education, Inc. on

Thursday, February 5th at the Madison County High School Cafeteria. He noted individual tickets are \$20 each and sponsor tables that come with 6 tickets are \$250. The Board by consensus agreed to sponsor a table with a donation of \$50 each.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:55 A.M.

Board of County Commissioners
Madison County, Florida

By: _____
Ronnie L. Moore, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tim Sanders, Clerk to the Board of
County Commissioners