



Indian River County Florida

Draft Meeting Minutes

Board of County Commissioners

Indian River County
Administration Complex
1801 27th Street, Building
A
Vero Beach, Florida,
32960-3388
www.indianriver.gov

Susan Adams, District 1, Chairman
Joseph Flescher, District 2, Vice Chairman
Joseph H. Earman, District 3
Deryl Loar, District 4
Laura Moss, District 5

John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
William K. DeBaal, County Attorney
Ryan L. Butler, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Shauna James, Deputy Clerk

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

9:00 AM

Commission Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Chairman Susan Adams
Vice Chairman Joseph Flescher
Commissioner Joe Earman
Commissioner Laura Moss
Commissioner Deryl Loar

2.A. A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

2.B. INVOCATION

Leslie Swan, Supervisor of Elections

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

William K. DeBaal, County Attorney

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA / EMERGENCY ITEMS

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to approve the Agenda as amended deleting Item 5.B. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

5. PROCLAMATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

5.A. Proclamation Honoring David May on his Retirement from Indian River County Sheriff's Office

Officer May expressed gratitude for his fulfilling career, particularly his time with the School Resource Team, and thanked his wife for her support. Sheriff Flowers

thanked the Board for recognizing Officer May and Officer Roger Harrington and praised Officer May's exceptional contributions. Fellow officers presented Officer May with a Challenge Coin and a plaque.

Read and Presented by Vice Chairman Flescher

- 5.B.** Proclamation Honoring Roger Harrington on his Retirement from Indian River County Sheriff's Office
- Deleted**

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7. INFORMATION ITEMS FROM STAFF OR COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

- 7.A.** Event Calendar
- No Action Taken or Required**

8. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Earman, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended pulling Items 8.J., 8.K., 8.P., and 8.S. for discussion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

- 8.A.** Checks and Electronic Payments April 26, 2024 to May 2, 2024
- Approved**
- 8.B.** Checks and Electronic Payments May 3, 2024 to May 9, 2024
- Approved**
- 8.C.** Checks and Electronic Payments May 10, 2024 to May 16, 2024
- Approved**
- 8.D.** Debt Policy Revisions
- Approved staff's recommendation**
- 8.E.** Additional Service #6, Value Engineering Revise Bid Documents - Sparc Design - New Clubhouse at Sandridge Golf Club
- Approved staff's recommendation**
- 8.F.** Dori Slosberg Driver Education Safety Act - Indian River County Traffic Education Program Trust Fund Report - Cumulative Reporting Through 03/31/24

Accepted

8.G. Quarterly Investment Report for Quarter Ending 03/31/2024

Accepted

8.H. Quarterly OPEB Trust Report for Quarter Ending 03/31/2024

Accepted

8.I. Quarterly Tourist Development Tax Report for Quarter Ending 03/31/2024

Accepted

8.J. Tourist Development Council 2024/2025 Budget Recommendations

Commissioner Moss raised concerns about the incomplete vetting process for 75% of the Tourist Development Council (TDC) budget, which would not be publicly reviewed until August 21, 2024. She emphasized the need for proper oversight and highlighted the history of funding for the Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) dating back to 1989. Commissioner Moss stressed the importance of thorough accountability and fiduciary responsibility and stated that she would not support this recommendation.

Vice Chairman Flescher provided a detailed explanation regarding the longstanding implementation of the tourist tax generation process. He underscored the significance of taking into account the economy of scale, pointing out that each night spent by a tourist in Indian River County contributes to revenue through a 4-cent tax on "heads to beds". He stated last year, the County saw a remarkable increase in revenue, exceeding \$4 million from this tax alone. Furthermore, he highlighted the Chamber's proactive endeavors in promoting the County and extended an invitation to all to attend the upcoming meeting, during which the Chamber would present a comprehensive overview of their efforts.

Chairman Adams reminded Commissioner Moss that the Chamber was designated as the County's tourism bureau. Although their presentation might not take place until August, an application outlining how they intend to spend the allocated funds was submitted, as this was a key part of the process. Chairman Adams stated that all the necessary information was available for review and included in the packet presented to the TDC.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Earman, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Loar

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Moss

8.K. General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024 Supplemental Resolution

Commissioner Earman pulled this item to publicize that the first stage of the General Obligation Bonds for the Conservation Bond approved in 2022 had been accomplished. The Environmental Lands Acquisition Panel (ELAP) had reviewed seven (7) properties and would move on to the second stage. He stated there were 17 more properties in the queue for review, making a total of 24 conservation properties submitted. He noted that being nominated does not guarantee purchase, as owners may not want to sell or may have been nominated without their knowledge.

Chairman Adams, in a bid to encourage public participation, highlighted the ease of the nomination process. She stated that if the public would like to nominate properties, they could do so conveniently through the County website.

There was no further discussion on this Item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Vice Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation and Resolution No. 2024-023, supplementing Resolution No. 2023-004 of the County; authorizing the issuance of not exceeding \$25,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of Indian River County, Florida General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024, in order to finance the cost of acquiring and preserving environmentally sensitive lands and constructing public access improvements related thereto within the County; making certain other covenants and agreements in connection with the issuance of such bonds; providing certain terms and details of such bonds; authorizing the County Administrator or the Chief Deputy Comptroller of the County to publish a summary notice of sale and to receive bids pursuant to a competitive sale of said bonds and award the sale of said bonds to the responsive bidder or bidders offering the lowest true interest cost to the County, which shall not exceed five percent (5.00%); authorizing the execution and delivery of said bonds; appointing the paying agent and registrar with respect to said bonds; approving the preparation and use of a summary notice of sale, an official notice of sale, a preliminary official statement and final official statement; authorizing the electronic dissemination of the preliminary official statement and official statement; authorizing the execution and delivery of a continuing disclosure certificate; and providing an effective date. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

8.L. Partial Release of Regulatory Conservation Easement in Exchange for Substitute Mitigation for Lost Tree Village

Approved staff's recommendation

8.M. Approval of FY 2023/2024 EMS County Awards Grant: Purchase of Capital/Operating Equipment Using Non-Matching EMS Grant Funds and Grant

Resolution

Approved staff's recommendation and Resolution 2024-024, authorizing the application for funding County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) grant awards to be submitted to the State of Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.

- 8.N.** Approval of Fourth Renewal of Third Amendment of Property Lease for Temporary Location of Fire Station #7

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.O.** Property Exchange for Right-of-Way Acquisition, 3890 Old Dixie Highway, Vero Beach, FL 32960 & 3900 Old Dixie Highway, Vero Beach, FL 32960, Golden Eagle Upholstery Services Corporation

Approved staff's recommendation and Resolution 2024-025, approving an exchange of property with Golden Eagle Upholstery Services Corporation.

- 8.P.** Amendment No. 1 to AtkinsRealis Workorder No. 7 for conceptual design of a Stormwater Storage/Treatment Facility

Commissioner Earman agreed with staff's recommendation to withdraw only a minimal amount of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Lagoon. He voiced concerns about the cost-effectiveness of a \$16.5 million bid for a stormwater treatment facility and stressed the need to prioritize stormwater projects. He emphasized the importance of bringing these projects to the public's attention and making them a priority for the County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Vice Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

- 8.Q.** Authorization for Staff to Pursue Unexpended Balances in the FDEP's Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.R.** Termination of Award of Bid 2024033 - Annual Right-of-Way Mowing

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.S.** School District Request for Resolution Calling for Referendum on the General Election Ballot of November 5, 2024

Lance Lunceford, President of the Taxpayers Association of Indian River County, stated that he believed any decision on any aspect of taxation was consequential to the community. He pulled the Item to have it discussed and clarified that it was not an effort on his part to block the Resolution but felt that it should be discussed.

Dr. David Moore, Superintendent of Schools for the School District of Indian River County (SDIRC), highlighted the school district's progress and achievements. He emphasized the commitment to uphold and improve the school system as promised to the community. He stated the district had significantly improved teacher pay rankings and had implemented rigorous measures to ensure student safety and technological advancement. He mentioned that the SDIRC had also seen substantial improvements in state rankings and aimed to continue its upward trajectory. Dr. Moore expressed gratitude for the community's support and emphasized the district's dedication to being responsible stewards of public funds.

Vice Chairman Flescher stated that the School Board recommended placing the referendum on the November ballot in accordance with the legislation which mandates that it be included. He emphasized that this motion aimed to give taxpayers the opportunity to make a decision on the matter. He underlined that the Board was not advocating for or against the referendum but rather fulfilling a request and ensuring that voters had the right to make their own decision for the benefit of the children and the future operation of the schools in Indian River County.

Commissioner Moss stated that she had checked previous to the meeting on how the school board had voted on this issue and confirmed it was a unanimous decision on this particular matter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Loar, seconded by Vice Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation and Resolution 2024-026, to call an election for a referendum to be placed on the ballot of the general election to be held on November 5, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

9. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS and GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

10. PUBLIC ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK
TO THE BOARD

10.A.1. Community Baptist Church, Inc.'s Request for Special Exception Use and Site Plan Approval for a K-12 Private School [SP-SE-23-03-10 / 96010103-95990] (Quasi-Judicial))

Chairman Adams introduced the parties for the proceeding as being Indian River

County and Community Baptist Church, Inc. (Applicant). Each Commissioner, as requested by the Chairman, disclosed ex parte communications, site visits, or independent investigations. The Commissioners also affirmed that they have an open mind and can base their decisions on the evidence presented and the applicable law. Chairman Adams stated that she had received a phone call from Jeff Klein, who had expressed his concerns about the project. He was invited to the hearing so he could convey those concerns.

The Deputy Clerk administered the Oath to all persons who wished to speak.

Patrick Murphy, Senior Planner, Current Development, stated that Community Baptist Church, Inc. sought approval to convert a 4,000-square-foot building into a K-12 private school. Mr. Murphy, using a PowerPoint presentation, showcased the site, which was located at 12534 Roseland Road and currently has a church, parking facilities, a pastor's residence, and accessory buildings. The proposed school would have nine classrooms, offices, and bathroom facilities with a maximum capacity of 90 students. No additional parking would be required as existing parking was sufficient for the school and the church.

The presentation included a detailed traffic circulation plan, which featured a full-movement driveway connection to Roseland Road. Minor enhancements to turn flares were also suggested to improve traffic flow. Traffic Engineering and Fire Prevention approved the plan to ensure smooth vehicle flow. As the school was not expected to generate high traffic volume, a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) was deemed unnecessary. Additionally, no offsite traffic improvements, such as turn lanes, were required or proposed.

Mr. Murphy explained that the project's stormwater management design included a main system consisting of four interconnected areas that direct stormwater runoff into the system. He stated the applicant was not proposing additional impervious areas, no expansion or improvements were required. The landscaping plan for the project site had a mix of trees, including several large oaks. The County's Environmental Planning staff approved the plan, noting that the densely vegetated southwest side of the property would serve as a buffer from the neighboring residential area, and no existing trees would be removed.

Mr. Murphy stated that at its regular meeting on May 9, 2024, the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) had voted 7-0 to recommend the Board grant special exception use and site plan approval with the conditions recommended by staff.

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing.

Pastor John Stevens shared that he felt a divine calling to establish a school at Community Baptist Church. He recognized the community's need for private education, and the church was committed to providing this option. He highlighted the church's involvement in numerous community outreach initiatives.

Roseland resident Jeff Klein stated he strongly supported the school but was deeply concerned about the potential increase in traffic. He recommended that students be dropped off from 512 instead of US1 Highway 1. Additionally, he felt the County should take measures to address the deep swales, emergency vehicle congestion, and the presence of an alligator. Furthermore, he was adamant that future notification signs for meetings should be more prominent, and the notification letters should be distributed to all residents.

Mr. Murphy addressed Mr. Klein's comments and explained that a traffic study wasn't needed for the proposed K-12 school, as it would generate only 232 trips per day, well below the 400-trip threshold. He also discussed the requirement to notify properties within a 300-foot radius and suggested more prominent signage for better visibility. Additionally, he advised the Pastor to call animal control to remove the alligator and noted that Public Works, not the church, should address the deep swale on the public roadway.

Pastor Stevens confirmed there was no alligator in the swale.

Further discussion was had between the Board and staff regarding the traffic concerns and the maximum number of students for future traffic studies. It was confirmed that the school could only accommodate a maximum of 90 students. Ryan Sweeney, Assistant Planning Development Services Director, mentioned that operational details would be learned with the new school over time. He acknowledged that the first day might be chaotic, with people moving in different directions. However, adjustments such as setting specific drop-off times for other grade levels were generally made within a week. Over time, the school would manage to streamline its operations.

Vice Chairman Flescher thanked the Pastor and staff for addressing the concerns and working to advance a faith-based school during challenging times. He appreciated Mr. Klein's input and believed his concerns had been addressed. He hoped the Pastor's aspirations for this school would come to fruition.

There being no further discussion the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Loar, seconded by Vice Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation, and to cover the request for relief from landscaping along the corridor of the South property line. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

B. PUBLIC DISCUSSION ITEMS

C. PUBLIC NOTICE ITEMS

11. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR MATTERS

12. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

A. Community Services

B. Emergency Services

C. Human Resources

12.C.1.

Indian River County Everside Health Center - 6 Month Update & Request for Approval of Additional Staffing and Direct Contract for Radiology Services

Human Resource Director Suzanne Boyll utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide an update on the Indian River County Everside Health Center, emphasizing a successful collaboration with Everside Health. The center opened on October 30, 2023, and has seen an increased participation rate and positive patient feedback.

She stated that the center has resulted in significant financial benefits, including total diverted healthcare costs and member savings of \$657,594. The health center's high utilization, at 66%, had prompted consideration for adding an additional Nurse Practitioner. Additionally, a proposal to establish a direct contract for radiology and imaging services with Everside Health was discussed to streamline the process and offer a cost-effective alternative despite the potential increased expense.

Further discussion was had between the Board and staff regarding the wait time to get an appointment and whether adding additional staff would improve that. Hiring a Nurse Practitioners versus hiring a Doctor was also discussed.

Vice Chairman Flescher and Commissioner Loar each expressed their satisfaction with the health center's success. It was noted that if an employee chose to remain on the County health plan after age 65, they would still be able to utilize the Everside Health Center.

Commissioner Earman was pleased with the results and happy the facility had

finally come to fruition.

Ms. Boyll mentioned that the Indian River County Employee Health Fair would be held here at the Administration Building on August 14, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Chairman Adams stated that the County had started this initiative because the number of medical issues was increasing and becoming a problem. The County tried to devise a strategy to minimize these issues in the long term. She stated that significant savings had been made within the first six months, and this trend would continue to keep the costs down and save taxpayer dollars. Another significant benefit was the convenience and reduced stress for employees seeking medical care. She felt this initiative was making a positive difference beyond just reducing medical claims.

A motion was made by Commissioner Loar, seconded by Vice Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Adams, Vice Chairman Flescher, Commissioner Earman, Commissioner Moss, and Commissioner Loar

D. Information Technology

E. Natural Resources

F. Office of Management and Budget

G. Parks, Recreation, and Conservation

H. Planning and Development Services

I. Public Works

J. Utilities Services

13. COUNTY ATTORNEY MATTERS

14. COMMISSIONERS MATTERS

A. Commissioner Susan Adams, Chairman

B. Commissioner Joseph E. Flescher, Vice Chairman

C. Commissioner Joseph H. Earman

D. Commissioner Deryl Loar

E. Commissioner Laura Moss

15. SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS

A. Emergency Services District

B. Solid Waste Disposal District

C. Environmental Control Board

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.