

**Official Minutes of
MARION COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

July 5, 2011

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners met in a workshop session in Commission Chambers at 2:01 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at the Marion County Governmental Complex located in Ocala, Florida.

Upon roll call the following members were present: Chairman Stan McClain, District 3; Vice-Chairman Charlie Stone, District 5; Commissioner Mike Amsden, District 1; and Commissioner Kathy Bryant, District 2. Commissioner Carl Zalak, District 4, arrived shortly after the meeting commenced. Also present was County Administrator Lee Niblock.

Garbage/Landfills/Solid Waste – Chairman McClain noted today's workshop was scheduled to discuss the Solid Waste and Airport business plans.

County Administrator Niblock advised that Solid Waste Director Mike Sims reviewed the budget over the last 2 months and significant reductions were made.

Mr. Sims presented a small bound document entitled, "Business Plan FY 2010-2011, Date: May 13, 2011," and a 30 page document entitled, "Solid Waste Department Business Plan 2011/2012," to follow along with the PowerPoint presentation. He advised that levels of services were considered to determine the staffing needs and supplies necessary to provide those levels.

Mr. Sims provided a brief history of the Solid Waste Department (page 2). The primary function of the Hazardous Waste Disposal Division was to keep the waste out of the stream (page 3). He stated the Disposal Division operated the Baseline Landfill to make sure the waste was properly handled, noting staff also cared for the older, unlined landfills (at Davis, Martel and Newton).

The responsibility of the Collection Division was to operate the roll off trucks that service the recycling centers and provide for special collection events (page 4). Mr. Sims noted the Recycling Division operated the 18 recycling centers 5 days a week, 10 hours a day (as well as two drop-off locations that were not permanently staffed facilities). He advised that Litter Control Officers utilized inmates and community service volunteers to pick up litter on the roadside, respond to complaints and helping with the Adopt-A-Road and Community Clean-Up programs.

Mr. Sims advised of the Statutes that placed responsibilities of solid waste management on the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), noting there were no specifics as to how to operate the department (page 5). Section 62-701, Florida Statutes (F.S.), governed the rules and regulations regarding management and operation of landfills and collection facilities. Mr. Sims commented on the Interlocal Agreement with Sumter County to provide household hazardous waste collection events.

Mr. Sims reviewed the successes, noting a positive change in Net Assets, downsizing of employees without reduction in services and little complaint from the 11,000 customers (page 6). He advised of the record 563,000 hours of work completed without lost time due to job accident or injury. Mr. Sims stated the Solid Waste assessment had remained constant (at \$87) for a number of years. He advised that a Request for Proposals was considered with regard to single-stream recycling to help

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increase the recycling rate.

In response to Chairman McClain, Mr. Sims noted the legislative recycling goal was set at 75% and was currently not mandated. He clarified that there was an established date to meet that goal in 2020 and stated there was little leadership as to how to achieve that level. Mr. Sims noted the lead-acid batteries were sent out for recycling, as well as used motor oil, but no credit was provided for those elements. He addressed the landfill gas-to-energy that was recycled.

Mr. Sims noted the loss of waste tonnage with regard to tipping and franchise fees as franchise haulers were unable to expand businesses. Commercial waste dropped immediately three years ago and residential waste had started decreasing.

Commissioner Zalak arrived at 2:19 p.m.

Mr. Sims addressed the importance of the Solid Waste Department to Marion County (page 7). He commented on all of the employee changes in the organizational chart (page 9). Mr. Sims noted the service process flow for the Hazardous Waste Disposal Division (page 10) and advised of the service process for cost data (page 11). He stated a service process flow chart and cost data was provided for all divisions, as follows: solid waste disposal, solid waste collection, solid waste recycling and litter control (pages 12-19).

Mr. Sims addressed process improvements made to the Hazardous Waste, Disposal, Collection and Recycling Center departments (page 20). He commented on the Baseline solid waste facility tonnage, noting commercial numbers would increase this year (page 21). Mr. Sims noted the 89,000 tons projected for residential would not be met this year. Construction and Demolition (C&D) tonnage was also being tracked. He advised that the total landfill tonnage realized a slight decrease because of the change in residential tonnage.

Mr. Sims addressed the comparison data to Manatee and Collier County regarding the assessment rate, recycling rate, tipping fee schedules, etc. (page 22). He noted mandatory curbside collection was available in Collier County and included in the assessment and disposal fees.

Mr. Sims stated a simple survey was conducted of the Baseline Landfill customers with good ratings (page 23). He advised that the survey took place after the transfer station was activated.

Mr. Sims noted the comparison in budget trend and advised that there was a slight increase in the disposal department due to the replacement of a garbage compactor unit and installation of the Davis water pipeline (page 24). He clarified that the old landfills were not generating any revenues, but were costing money due to contamination issues. In response to Commissioner Bryant, Mr. Sims noted there would never be a point in time when the old landfills were done, but rather a point where remediation work may not be needed. He advised that the State would require those systems be maintained and monitored.

Mr. Sims commented on the preview of budget line items that would be discussed during budget workshops (page 25). He advised of the different amounts of funding for each division based on the \$87 Solid Waste assessment, noting it represented 82% of the total budget (page 26). Mr. Sims stated staff was projecting based upon the estimated expenses and revenues, as well as assessments, tipping and franchise fees that would be generated. He addressed upcoming capital projects at the Baseline Landfill relating to the Urban Landfill contamination, side slope modification (Phase III), landfill gas collection system expansion, leachate pretreatment (pushed

back a few years), minor improvements to the yard waste stormwater system (with the final phase in two years), access road and drainage improvements and leachate storage tank replacement (as one was repaired and another had a limited lifespan) (page 27). Other capital projects regarded a contamination assessment at Davis Landfill; stormwater at Newton Landfill and contamination issues at Martel Landfill (page 28).

Mr. Sims advised that there were 12 years left at the Baseline landfill (page 29). He stated staff was continuing to look for ways to save, cut costs and minimize the impact of the Solid Waste assessment. Single-stream recycling would help economize the collection and push towards the 75% recycling goal. Mr. Sims noted electronics recycling should be implemented by the end of this year.

In response to Commissioner Zalak, Mr. Sims stated the selection committee considered all the proposals that were received (in regard to single-stream recycling), but noted the difficulty of comparing results without cost data. He advised that all the companies would be contacted to make a presentation for the review committee before a recommendation was made to the Board.

Commissioner Amsden inquired if the contract with G2Energy contained automatic renewals. Mr. Sims advised that it was a 20 year contract because of the approximate \$3.5 million initially invested to install two generators. He stated staff delivered the available landfill gas to them and advised that G2E elected to install a third generator (as it was made available from Alachua County). In response to Commissioner Amsden, Mr. Sims noted the installation would increase the revenue generated by Marion County.

Commissioner Stone referred to permits renewed for the Landfill and inquired if permitting renewal could be performed in-house rather than via consultants. Mr. Sims noted there was no Project Engineer (PE) on staff that could sign and seal, but staff would work with the Transportation Department.

Commissioner Bryant out at 2:55 p.m.

Chairman McClain commented on the challenges for staff to review the processes for improvements.

Commissioner Bryant returned at 2:58 p.m.

Airports – Airport Supervisor John Helms presented a 31 page spiral bound document entitled, “Marion County Airport Business Plan 2011-2012,” to follow along with a PowerPoint presentation. He briefly addressed the Agenda (page 2) and provided a history of the Dunnellon Airport, which currently totaled 792 acres (pages 3-4). Mr. Helms commented on the original construction of the airfield in 1941 and utilized by armed forces, as well as pictures of aircraft used (pages 6-10).

Mr. Helms advised of the purpose of the Airport, including the provision of services and facilities, support to the aviation community, businesses, jobs, level of service and fuel prices (page 11). The three main goals of the Airport were to increase the utilization, efficiency and sustainability, as well as provide and maintain quality aviation facilities (page 12). Mr. Helms addressed objectives within Goal 1 (of increasing the utilization of the Airport) that included increasing recreational and business aviation with local organizations, the number of access codes and publicity to educate (page 13). He advised that via an agreement with the State of Florida, staff was able to procure a security grant to upgrade the gate access system for control of those entering and exiting the Airport. Mr. Helms commented on the different aircraft that the variety of

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customers benefitted from by purchasing fuel at the Airport.

The objectives under Goal 2 included maintaining reasonable and competitive fuel prices, maintaining hangar facilities with competitive lease rates and maintaining a 100% hangar occupancy rate (page 14). Mr. Helms noted the waiting list for hangars was continuing to grow. He addressed the objectives of Goal 3 regarding level of service standard (LOSS) for facilities and stated the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – Aviation inspected the facility every year and provided suggestions as to how to maintain the Airport (page 15). Staff also continued to expand and install aviation facilities, as well as continue a Quality Inspection Program. Mr. Helms expressed concern with liability regarding water in fuel tanks and stated inspections were conducted to avoid issues.

Mr. Helms noted the successes of the Airport included the implementation of the Master Plan, doubling the amount of hangar facilities, preserving a reputation for affordable fuel prices and fees and increased use of airports for events (page 16). Pitfalls included the shortage of a parking area for larger aircraft, lack of terminal facilities, limited services, lack of full service (or single-point fueling) and lack of weather-monitoring equipment (page 17).

Mr. Helms noted the importance of the Airport in the community and stated the location promoted continued growth (page 18). He advised that the Airport had the lowest number of employees of a manned Airport in the State of Florida and addressed the organizational chart (page 19). In response to Commissioner Bryant, Mr. Helms stated the hours of operation were Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. He addressed the services provided by the Airport (page 20). In response to Commissioner Zalak, Mr. Helms noted the fuel was purchased and then a markup was placed, so the \$700,000 in operating expenses turned out to be a wash.

Mr. Helms addressed the Fuel System Maintenance flowchart (page 21).

Commissioner Amsden out at 3:34 p.m.

He stated the differences between Dunnellon versus Ocala International, Williston and Crystal River airports included a weather monitoring system, ground communications outlet, fuel trucks, single point jet fueling and a terminal building (pages 22-24). In response to Commissioner Stone, Mr. Helms commented on the attributes of the weather monitoring system that pilots could utilize in the air.

Commissioner Amsden returned at 3:35 p.m.

In response to Commissioner Amsden, Mr. Helms clarified that the State of Florida encouraged a terminal in the interest of safety, although there was no requirement. He advised that a terminal facility also offered another form of control and addressed issues that could occur. In response to Commissioner Bryant, Mr. Helms stated he could email the Board with estimated costs of a terminal.

Mr. Helms provided a comparison of T-hangar costs between regional airports, noting the average price per square foot was approximately \$0.22 per square foot (sf) (pages 25-26). He commented on the size of hangars provided at Dunnellon Airport.

Mr. Helms addressed the line item budget history regarding personal, operating, aviation fuel and capital costs (page 27). He noted the aviation fuel was separated out as there was an increase in sales every year. Major projects to take place at the Airport included repaving runway 5-23, restriping runway 9-27 (to change striping numbers to 10-28 due to the shift of the magnetic poles) (page 28). Mr. Helms advised of projects listed in the Master Plan, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and joint interagency agreements for airport improvement programs with the Federal Aviation Administration

(FAA) and the State of Florida was to construct an aircraft parking ramp east of the current taxiway to allow for expansion of land and airside buildings to maintain safety by limiting access across movement areas.

Installation of an AWOS-III system was scheduled to take place with nondiscretionary assistance from the FAA as they provided \$150,000 a year (which was the estimated cost of the system). Mr. Helms advised that the project would have taken place if not for the runway repave project (as the repave was of higher priority). He stated funds would be available next year for staff to install the system and reduce costs locally. The terminal building and ground communication outlet were both part of the Master Plan.

Mr. Helms addressed the future vision of the Airport, noting it was a valuable asset to the community (page 30). Commissioner Stone directed the County Administrator to schedule one-on-ones before venturing forward with a terminal. Chairman McClain noted there may be alternatives to the idea. Commissioner Stone expressed concern with how far to move forward depending on the Airport traffic. Commissioner Zalak agreed and stated most aviation businesses may choose Ocala International Airport as their first choice. Mr. Helms stated a lot of businesses, especially with Ocala Breeder Sales (OBS), were interested and commented on the amount of different charter jets, commercial operators, etc. that utilized the Dunnellon Airport.

Commissioners/Utilities/Water – Chairman McClain stated he would draft a letter in response to water issues to be provided within the next few days.

It was noted the Deputy Clerk received for the record a small spiral bound document entitled, "Marion County Airport Business Plan."

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting thereupon adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Stan McClain, Chairman

Attest:

David R. Ellspermann, Clerk

Adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, August 2, 2011.

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