

January 10, 2017
Special-Called Board Meeting
Judicial Annex Building
Live Oak, Florida

10:00 a.m.

The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners met on the above date and time for a special-called session and the following were present: Chairman Ricky Gamble; Commissioner Don Hale; Commissioner Clyde Fleming; Commissioner Larry Sessions; and Commissioner Ronnie Richardson. Eric Musgrove, Deputy Clerk; and Randy Harris, County Administrator, were also present. James W. Prevatt, County Attorney, was not present (but arrived later).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss awarding a bid for underground electrical work as well as rescheduling the next regular Board meeting.

Chairman Gamble called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

The first item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, awarding of a bid and authorizing execution of a contract for underground electrical work at the Judicial Annex.

County Administrator Harris stated that there was one bid for Bid # 2017-01, Electrical Service for the Judicial Annex. He discussed the electrical situation with the impending State Attorney's Office parking lot and added that since there was a single bid, the Board had the opportunity to reject the bid and rebid the project or open the bid and accept the amount, whatever it was.

Commissioner Fleming asked how many companies had been contacted. County Administrator Harris replied that the bid was posted on a website that was accessible by numerous companies, and had no idea how many people it had actually reached.

County Attorney Prevatt arrived at the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Commissioner Fleming asked if the project was time-sensitive. County Administrator Harris replied that the project needed to be completed as soon as possible, because it was holding up other projects, such as the parking lot construction. He then discussed the electrical situation in more detail.

Commissioner Richardson asked if the State Attorney's and Judicial Annex parking lots would be joined together. County Administrator Harris replied that they would be joined by a sidewalk, with a retention area between them.

County Administrator Harris stated that if the Board rejected the bid unopened, he would then contact several companies and request quotes. However, this could mean that his purchasing limit of \$5,000 would be exceeded, which would require him to come to the Chairman for approval and notify the rest of the Board of the action.

Commissioner Richardson asked if there was an estimated cost for the project. County Administrator Harris replied that the State Attorney's Office underground electrical work had cost approximately \$7,500, but it was not comparable to the current project because of the amount of work required.

Chairman Gamble asked if the Board could set a price limit to the quote and then reject the quote if it exceeded the limit. County Attorney Prevatt replied that the Board could not do that.

Commissioner Richardson was concerned with the increased cost to the County if the current bid was rejected.

Discussion ensued on advertised bids versus quotes as well as the specific needs of the electrical project.

After questioning, County Administrator Harris replied that there was not enough time to rebid the project.

Commissioner Richardson was concerned that the County had not anticipated the underground electrical work, and as a result, a last-minute bid had been required that did not have time to be rebid.

County Administrator Harris replied that normally, he would agree with Commissioner Richardson's comments. However, the situation was not the same and he had not been in charge of the Judicial Annex until it was practically complete and power had already been completed. He stated that if he had been in charge from the beginning of the Judicial Annex project, he would have made sure the underground electrical work had been completed at the time of construction. He was now attempting to right an issue that should have been completed several years ago.

Commissioner Richardson accepted County Administrator Harris' explanation, but believed that the underground electrical work should have been bid out at the same time as the State Attorney's Office parking lot construction.

Commissioner Fleming agreed with both Commissioner Richardson's comments as well as those of County Administrator Harris. He added that there had been no way that the Board could have foreseen all the events that had led to the construction of the State Attorney's Office beside the Judicial Annex. Commissioner Fleming agreed that the electrical work needed to be completed as soon as possible.

Commissioner Richardson asked if the Board was bound to the bid if it was open. County Attorney Prevatt replied that the Board was bound to accept it, unless it did not meet all the bid requirements.

Discussion continued on how to handle the bid.

County Administrator Harris stated that the Board had rejected bids before, and it was not unprecedented.

Commissioner Fleming moved to reject all bids for underground electrical work at the Judicial Annex (Bid # 2017-01) unopened. Commissioner Sessions seconded. After clarification that there would not be any legal problems because of the rejection, the motion carried unanimously.

County Administrator Harris stated that he would request quotes from several companies, and if the quotes were over his \$5,000 threshold, he would contact the Chairman for permission to spend up to \$10,000. At that point, the Board would receive notification of the approval in the following meeting's agenda packet.

The second item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, rescheduling the next regular Board meeting to an alternative date due to a conflict.

Chairman Gamble stated that one of the commissioners had a formal dinner scheduled with the Governor on the date normally reserved for the County Commission. He believed that the dinner would be helpful for discussing Suwannee County's needs with the Governor and suggested that the Board reschedule the next regular meeting.

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Commissioner Sessions moved to move the next regular Board meeting to Thursday, January 19, at 6 p.m. Commissioner Hale seconded. Commissioner Richardson thanked the Board for allowing him the opportunity to have dinner with the Governor and discuss the County's needs. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Richardson moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fleming seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

ATTEST:

_____, DC
BARRY A. BAKER
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

RICKY GAMBLE, CHAIRMAN
SUWANNEE COUNTY BOARD OF
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS