

October 18, 2016  
Regular Board Meeting  
Judicial Annex Building  
Live Oak, Florida

6:00 p.m.

The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners met on the above date and time for a regular session and the following were present: Chairman Jason Bashaw; Commissioner Clyde Fleming; Commissioner Ricky Gamble; Commissioner Larry Sessions; and Commissioner Wesley Wainwright. Barry A. Baker, Clerk of Court; Ken Williams, Chief Deputy Clerk of Finance; Eric Musgrove, Deputy Clerk; Randy Harris, County Administrator; and James W. Prevatt, Jr., County Attorney, were also present.

Chairman Bashaw called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and asked Commissioner Fleming to lead the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Chairman Bashaw reminded the public that if they wished to speak, to please fill out a comment card and submit it to either County Administrator Harris or any member of the Board.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**The first item on the agenda** was to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 Regular Board Meeting and the October 6, 2016 Emergency Meeting.

**Commissioner Sessions moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 Regular Board Meeting and October 6, 2016 Emergency Meeting as written. Commissioner Gamble seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

**CONSENT:**

**The second item on the agenda** was to approve payment of processed invoices.

**SUWANNEE COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**WARRANTS ISSUED REPORT**

<b>FUND</b>	<b>10/18/2016</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
001 GENERAL FUND	\$	1,112,254.24
112 RESERVE-CAPTIAL PROJECTS		
116 FINE AND FORFEITURE	\$	756,555.32
117 911 ADDRESSING FUND	\$	2,017.31
118 STATE ATTORNEYS OFFICE	\$	196.67
119 MUNICIPAL SERVICES FUND	\$	6,908.23
120 LAW ENFORCEMENT		
121 NARCOTICS CONTROL		
122 FIRE PROTECTION FUND	\$	36,674.17
126 EMS GRANT FUND		
128 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$	6,486.19
129 LAW EDUCATION	\$	632.00
131 TOURIST DEVELOPMENT		
140 ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$	578,337.28
145 ROAD AND BRIDGE CONST. & PAVING		
171 LIBRARY FUND	\$	81,136.31
172 RECREATION FUND	\$	25,492.22
181 LOCAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM		
251 RENOVATIONS / DEBT SERVICE		
301 VOTING EQUIPMENT FUND		
351 RENOVATIONS / CONSTRUCTION		
402 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION	\$	32,549.13
403 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	\$	78,761.20
404 SUW CTY WATER PLANT	\$	873.32
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 2,718,873.59</b>

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## Board of County Commissioners over \$10,000.00 Warrants Issued Analysis

*Please find below a list of payments \$10,000.00 and above that will be approved for disbursement on 10/18/16*

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
Jim Hinton Oil	10/6/2016	172970	\$14,820.10	Fuel
City of Live Oak	10/6/2016	172964	\$15,944.12	Utilities
Town of Branford	10/6/2016	172977	\$12,178.85	Utilities
Windstream Corp	10/6/2016	172987	\$10,455.86	Communication utility
Jim Hinton Oil	10/13/2016	173032	\$18,263.76	Fuel
Ring Power Corporation	10/13/2016	173052	\$86,148.38	Tow Master trailer
Neflin	10/13/2016	173083	\$14,400.00	Overdrive subscription FY 16/17
BC/BS	10/13/2016	173108	\$162,520.99	Employee health insurance
FL Dept Agriculture	10/13/2016	173114	\$30,698.58	County forest assessment FY 16/17
Austin Powder	10/13/2016	173115	\$26,600.00	Blast holes x 95
Ring Investments	10/13/2016	173131	\$251,146.91	Lease on dump trucks (5), tractor-loader-mower (6), loader 5 yd
VE Whitehurst and Sons	10/13/2016	173157	\$67,547.24	180th Street #1
			\$710,724.79	

**The third item on the agenda** was to approve an agreement with Meridian Behavioral, Inc. for space donated by Suwannee County. (**Agreement No. 2017-03**)

**The fourth item on the agenda** was to approve a funding agreement with Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. for the Provision of Mental Health, Baker Act, and Addiction Services. (**Agreement No. 2017-04**)

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**The fifth item on the agenda** was to approve a Task Order with North Florida Professional Services, Inc. for parking lot and stormwater collection system design and plans for the State Attorney's Office, and plans for modifications to the southwest portion of the Mizell's Building to accommodate a parking lot. Task Order includes all bid documents and specifications. Budget impact: funded from Capital Improvement Plan funds. **(Agreement No. 2017-05)**

**The sixth item on the agenda** was to approve Supplemental Agreement No. 17 for professional services with Environmental Assessment for the West Apron Development Phase I project at the Suwannee County Airport. **(Agreement No. 2014-44-17)**

**The seventh item on the agenda** was to authorize execution of a contract with McInnis Services, LLC for construction of a new maintenance building at the Suwannee County Airport in the amount of \$117,696.00. (Bid Solicitation No. 2016-14). (Bids were opened on August 9, 2016). Funded by FDOT. **(Agreement No. 2017-06)**

**The eighth item on the agenda** was to authorize seeking potential locations for solid waste collection sites.

**The ninth item on the agenda** was to award a bid for batteries to Battery Distributors Southeast, Inc. (Bid Solicitation No. 2016-18). (Bids were opened on October 11, 2016).

**Commissioner Wainwright moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items 2-9. Commissioner Gamble seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

**The tenth item on the agenda** was a presentation regarding the completion and reopening of the Suwannee Lake project.

Mr. Allen Martin of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission delivered a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation discussing Suwannee Lake, a State-owned 63-acre lake built in 1967 for fishing.

County Attorney Prevatt asked if there was a website to view the photos shown in the presentation. Mr. Martin replied that there was currently no website for Suwannee Lake, but the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may create a page on their website.

Commissioner Sessions asked how many bass were stocked in Suwannee Lake. Mr. Martin replied that bass were stocked over a two-year period, with approximately 125,000 stocked each year along with three times the amount of forage fish.

Chairman Bashaw thanked Mr. Martin and the work done by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at Suwannee Lake.

**TIME SPECIFIC ITEMS:**

**The eleventh item on the agenda** was at 6:10 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard, to hold a presentation of the Florida Department of Transportation's County Work Program Priorities.

Mr. Barney Bennette of the Florida Department of Transportation submitted paperwork with a list of priorities and then discussed the list in detail. The proposed work included lighting at the Interstate I-10 exchange, a new interstate rest area, road resurfacing, sidewalks, and a new \$11.7 million bridge at Dowling Park.

Commissioner Wainwright thanked DOT for their help in the community over the years.

County Administrator Harris thanked DOT's assistance to Suwannee County, especially with modifying funding amounts based upon inflation and other issues.

Commissioner Fleming thanked DOT for their lighting proposal at the interstate interchange after a fatal accident, and was working with DOT for the possibility of a traffic light in the same location.

**COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS:**

There were none.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY ITEMS:**

There were none.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**The twelfth item on the agenda** was to discuss expandable sewage treatment systems.

Mr. W. B. Crotty, a licensed septic tank inspector living at 3806 181<sup>st</sup> Road in Live Oak, discussed expandable sewage treatment systems in great detail, including the possibility of partial or full grant funding. He asked for direction from the Board as to their interest in such systems for the Catalyst Site.

County Administrator Harris stated that he had no problem looking into expandable sewage facilities and appreciated Mr. Crotty for his presentation. He stated that he would be glad to share the information with the County's engineer for the Catalyst Site, Mr. Frank Darabi.

Chairman Bashaw stated that Mr. Crotty had presented interesting technology.

**The thirteenth item on the agenda** was to discuss, with possible Board action, adoption of a resolution urging the Florida Legislature and Cabinet to dedicate conservation funds for water conservation projects in the environmentally sensitive areas of North and Central Florida, and oppose any efforts to use State Conservation funds to purchase farm lands south of Lake Okeechobee for water storage.

Chairman Bashaw stated that the presenter could not attend, but asked County Attorney Prevatt to discuss the issue further.

County Attorney Prevatt stated that he had asked the item to be withdrawn from the previous meeting's agenda because he did not agree with the wording of the original resolution, which had since been changed. He added that the proposed resolution was more of a proclamation than anything else.

Commissioner Gamble stated that the resolution sounded good on the surface, but after further research it appeared that there was an ulterior motive. He suggested ignoring the request to adopt the resolution.

County Administrator Harris stated that the request was a battle between North Florida and South Florida, and the North would not win due to the larger population of South Florida. He wanted to remain on good terms with those legislators and opposed the proposed resolution.

**The Board took no action on the issue.**

**The fourteenth item on the agenda** was to discuss, with possible Board action, bidding on the old State Attorney Building.

County Administrator Harris stated that the building would be auctioned in the next few days. He discussed the history of the Commission's talks with the owners of the building, who at

the time were not interested in working with the County. Now that the County was constructing a new State Attorney's Office, the owners of the present building were looking at their options. County Administrator Harris stated that he had been contacted by the Department of Juvenile Justice about their space needs, and several County entities needed acclimatized storage and office needs. He asked if the Board was interested in participating in the building's auction.

Commissioner Wainwright stated that there were several County entities that still leased space, and he would like to see the County address the issue by investigating the purchase of the building.

The Board agreed that the County should consider auctioning on the building.

County Attorney Prevatt stated that the building would be auctioned, meaning that the Board needed to allow the County Administrator and County Attorney to bid on the property based upon their understanding of the Board's suggested purchase price. If the Board won the bid and decided not to honor the bid, the County would pay a \$5,000 penalty. Per law, all negotiations would be confidential until the Board actually approved the purchase price.

Commissioner Fleming stated that the building was constructed in 1965, and asked about Ameris Bank currently located within it. County Attorney Prevatt replied that the bank only had a lease on their portion of the building until 2018, at which time the new owners could work with the bank or have them move out. He noted that Ameris Bank was given a much better deal than the County to lease their space.

Mr. Jim Ward of Branford asked about statutory appraisals for the building. County Attorney Prevatt replied that the County had until the closing to hire appraisers, and several had already been contacted to be on standby in case the County was interested in the building.

Chairman Bashaw clarified that a considerable amount of background work had been done on planning office and storage space in the old State Attorney's Office building, and it appeared that the building was a good investment for the County.

**Commissioner Wainwright moved to allow the County Administrator and County Attorney to participate in the auction and bid upon the old State Attorney's Office building. Commissioner Gamble seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

**The fifteenth item on the agenda** was to discuss, with possible Board action, roof repairs at the Freight Depot.

Chairman Bashaw stated that he had asked for the item to be placed upon the agenda due to the necessity of roofing repairs. He added that although the Historical Commission owned the building, it was funded through public funds and it was in the best interests of the County to make an investment in the property for the public good.

County Administrator Harris stated that the Maintenance Department could evaluate the building to determine if they could fix the problem. If further repairs were required, he would come back before the Board with a recommendation.

**Commissioner Sessions moved to have County staff evaluate roofing needs for the Freight Depot (in which the Museum was located and was owned by the Historical Commission). Commissioner Wainwright seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

**The sixteenth item on the agenda** was to discuss, with possible Board action, any items related to the State Attorney's Office (if necessary).

County Administrator Harris had nothing to discuss other than some additional agenda items.

**The seventeenth item on the agenda** was Additional Agenda Items.

There were six additional agenda items:

**The first additional agenda item** was to authorize the Chairman to execute a CDBG contract for railroad funding following County Attorney review.

County Administrator Harris anticipated receiving a copy of the contract in the near future. He discussed the Community Development Block Grant program and Mr. Fred Fox's assistance with the County's needs. County Administrator Harris stated that the application was a difficult one that took a considerable amount of time, but Mr. Fox had been able to work with the State. He asked for authorization to sign the contract after the County Attorney's review.

**Commissioner Sessions moved to authorize the Chairman to execute a CDBG contract for railroad funding following County Attorney review. Commissioner Wainwright seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Agreement No. 2017-07)**

**The second additional agenda item** was to approve a change order with Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc. for improvements to 45<sup>th</sup> Road, 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, and 37<sup>th</sup> Road chip seal.

County Administrator Harris stated that the change order was for minor changes to the water flow to stop street washouts.

**Commissioner Fleming moved to approve a change order with Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc. for improvements to 45<sup>th</sup> Road, 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, and 37<sup>th</sup> Road chip seal. Commissioner Gamble seconded. Commissioner Sessions stated that he would need to abstain from voting due to a conflict of interests, as he owned property along the road. The motion carried unanimously (4-0), with Commissioner Sessions abstaining due to a conflict of interests. (Agreement No. 2017-08)**

**The third additional agenda item** was to discuss, with possible Board action, the Douglass Center.

Chairman Bashaw stated that there had been much discussion on the property since he had become a Board member and hoped to have the issue resolved.

Commissioner Fleming stated that after multiple attempts, the County and private groups had been unable to acquire grants from the State Bureau of Historical Resources because the building did not meet application criteria. He asked if the Board wished to have the Parks and Recreation Department oversee the building.

**Commissioner Fleming moved to allow the Parks and Recreation Department to oversee the Douglass Center. Commissioner Wainwright seconded.** Chairman Bashaw stated that he was concerned about the building because a plan had been adopted approximately four years before, but nothing had been done to further the plan because of politics, special interests, and other reasons. He suggested that the Board needed to show leadership and amend the motion to adopt its original plan for the Douglass Center for public use. **Commissioner Fleming moved to amend his motion to require that the original plan of action be enacted before the Parks and Recreation Department took over the oversight of the Douglass Center. Commissioner Wainwright seconded the amendment to the motion.** Commissioner Wainwright submitted documentation regarding the County's last discussion about a plan of action for the Douglass Center that would tear down some of the buildings to create adequate parking and security. Discussion ensued on interim plans and uses that were not a part of the original plan, as well as how much the modifications would cost the County. Commissioner Wainwright was concerned with the costs of the modifications and the questionable return on investment. Chairman Bashaw

stated that accepting the original plan would reduce the County's liability. Discussion continued on the numerous repairs that would still be required for the remaining structures at the Douglass Center that could not be completed with grant funding. Mr. Robert Ford of the Douglass Center Committee stated that he supported Commissioner Fleming's original motion, but did not support the amendment to the motion that limited the work at the Douglass Center to the County's original plan. Mr. Ford added that the State had suggested the County pursue a different route in applying for grants, and the Board seemed to be using backhanded tactics to forward its agenda. **Commissioner Wainwright withdrew his second to the amendment to the original motion. Commissioner Fleming withdrew his motion to amend the original motion (to add that the Parks and Recreation Department would follow the original plan for the Douglass Center set by the Board in prior years). Commissioner Wainwright then withdrew his second to the original motion, and Commissioner Fleming withdrew his original motion (to transfer oversight of the Douglass Center to the Parks and Recreation Department).**

Commissioner Fleming asked if the Board would like the Parks and Recreation Department to oversee the Douglass Center and also hire an independent party to look at renovations.

Discussion ensued on RFPs and the Board's desire to do so.

Mr. Greg Scott, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that he would like to have a conversation with the new incoming sheriff to determine the Police Athletic League's plans for the property. He stated that he was concerned with following the Board's plans for the building without clear direction. Mr. Scott stated that he would be open to hiring an outside entity to apply for grants for the Douglass Center, as his office did not generally handle such grant writing. He

added that normally he had a vision of a property before beginning oversight, and he did not have one for the Douglass Center at this time.

Commissioner Wainwright asked if Mr. Scott was comfortable with tearing down most of the Douglass Center buildings and work on renovating what was left. Mr. Scott replied that he did not have enough information to make an informed decision, but added that the building had a sentimental connection and significance to many people in the community. He suggested that the Board take time to research the issue further so that clear goals, plans, and timelines could be determined before the Parks and Recreation Department took over.

Commissioner Wainwright stated that the Board had taken over the Douglass Center approximately seven years before, and he had no problem with turning the facility over to the Parks and Recreation Department. His concerns were liability and funding.

Dr. Alvin Jackson, Director of Economic Development, stated that he had questions with the Douglass Center grants. He stated that he had served on the Florida Historic Preservation Council between 1988 and 2001, and was its chairman when the Suwannee County Courthouse had received its historical grant funding for major renovations through the Council. Dr. Jackson added that he also served as the historic preservation officer in several communities over his years of public service. He was concerned with submitting a historic grant for the Douglass Center because the building did not meet the criteria of being a historical building; it was not used as an African-American school long enough and it was not located in the original location of the African-American schools. Dr. Jackson stated that hiring an additional consultant would not help the historic grant, as the Douglass Center did not meet State and Federal criteria. He then discussed his past experience with historic buildings and historic landmarks, and suggested that perhaps a

historic landmark designation could be given for the original location of the Douglass School. Dr. Jackson stated that the Douglass Center would need to be renovated, as there was really nothing historic left to preserve. He then discussed some of his previous experiences dealing with historic buildings, adding that the County would need to justify any costs spent on the Douglass Center so that they did not outweigh the benefits. Dr. Jackson then delivered a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation demonstrating his experience with renovating historical buildings and landmarks by showing one of the buildings that he had helped to renovate for community needs in another city.

Chairman Bashaw asked in Dr. Jackson's professional opinion if the County should look at historic preservation for the Douglass Center, or do something else with it. Dr. Jackson replied that the building did not meet historic preservation requirements and it might be better to tear down the structure and replace it with a facility that met the community's needs. A community needs study and cost benefit analysis would determine the next step, which would take some time to complete.

Chairman Bashaw stated that the Douglass Center was a major liability to the County in its current condition, and this is why he was championing action now.

Dr. Jackson again suggested that the County look into a community needs or feasibility study to determine if the Douglass Center needed to be demolished or parts of the facility renovated.

Chairman Bashaw reminded the Board and public of Dr. Jackson's qualifications on this matter.

County Administrator Harris stated that he had talked to the Board and Dr. Jackson and the County first needed to determine the community's needs before making a final decision. He stated

that the gymnasium was currently being used and should be kept, as well as some of the classrooms. County Administrator Harris stated that other parts of the structure could be used as well, but it would depend on what the community really needed. He suggested that it probably would be cheaper to demolish the current Douglass Center and replace it with a new facility to meet the needs of a true community center, such as weddings, banquets, and a proposed African-American museum. County Administrator Harris discussed some of the Douglass Center's issues in detail. He added that he could not speak to sentimental value, but from a financial standpoint, it would be cheaper to simply tear down the majority of the structures and start anew. County Administrator Harris stated that much time had already been spent on making plans for the Douglass Center, but he made it clear that he was not making a formal recommendation to the Board.

Dr. Jackson clarified that historic preservation projects were far more expensive than normal renovations.

Mr. Ford thanked Dr. Jackson for his comments, but suggested that the Board approve the original motion for the Parks and Recreation Department to take over the oversight of the Douglass Center. He added that the Board's conceptual drawings would not keep the historical context of the structure. Mr. Ford then discussed the history of the Douglass Center and the various additions to the facility over the years. He again stated his concern for the item being placed as an additional agenda item that did not allow the public an opportunity to attend, and suggested the Board postpone making a decision until further community involvement was achieved. Mr. Ford pointed out that the County Commission would be changing its makeup in approximately one month due to the election and asked for the new Board to consider the topic.

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Chairman Bashaw stated that he had not seen any conceptual drawings or plans addressing the Douglass Center from private individuals or groups, and the only efforts to move forward with the Douglass Center had been from the County Commission. He added that he had discussed turning over the Douglass Center to Mr. Ford and his associates to own and maintain, but they had disagreed with the suggestion. Chairman Bashaw stated that he wanted to tie up loose ends before his term ended in less than a month, and did not want to see the Douglass Center problem passed to the Parks and Recreation Department. He suggested the Board set into place a directive on the Douglass Center before turning over the property to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Commissioner Wainwright stated that he was not comfortable allowing the School Board to use the Douglass Center due to liabilities with the roof and other safety issues.

Discussion ensued on the feasibility of using the Douglass Center structure.

**Commissioner Wainwright moved to demolish the Douglass Center except for the gymnasium. The motion died for lack of a second.**

Chairman Bashaw stated that he saw some historical value to the property and did not want to see it all torn down, but wanted the Board to make a decision and move forward with the project.

Commissioner Fleming stated that the School Board deeded the property over to the County several years ago, and it was only after that transfer that he realized the deplorable state of the Douglass Center. He agreed that some of the structures should be demolished due to their unsafe state, and had discussed possibilities for future uses with Mr. Scott. Commissioner Fleming thanked Dr. Jackson for his time and expert opinion on looking at the Douglass Center.

**Commissioner Fleming moved to have the Parks and Recreation Department oversee the Douglass Center and move forward with feasibility studies to determine the next action.**

**Commissioner Wainwright seconded the motion, noting that he had full confidence in Mr. Scott and the Parks and Recreation Department.** Discussion ensued on rental fees and a specific direction for the future. Commissioner Gamble suggested a workshop to determine a plan of action before making a decision on who would oversee the Douglass Center. Discussion continued on the issue. Chairman Bashaw stated that he would like to turn over the Douglass Center to the Parks and Recreation Department once it was in a secure and safe state. Mr. Scott stated that numerous meetings had been held in the past to discuss the Douglass Center's future. If the Parks and Recreation Department took over the Douglass Center, he would like direction from the Board as to what the future plans would be and how it would be funded. Chairman Bashaw asked if Mr. Scott had visited the Douglass Center recently, and if he had any suggestions. Mr. Scott replied that there were negative and illegal activities were already happening in and around the facility, and improving one portion of the building would only invite further illegal activities and vandalism. He was also concerned with the appearance of favoritism between facilities and noted past and current problems with some of his recreational facilities. Mr. Scott did not see enough use at the Douglass Center to offset the County's expenses in renovating it. **Commissioner Wainwright withdrew his second to the motion and suggested that the upcoming Board deal with the situation. The original motion to turn over the Douglass Center to the Parks and Recreation Department died for lack of a second.**

Commissioner Gamble believed that the Board should have more time to review the issue, possibly through a workshop.

Chairman Bashaw stated that security should be a top priority for the Douglass Center in order to protect the County's investment.

**The Board took no action at this time.**

**The fourth additional agenda item** was to discuss approval of 3-phase electrical service at the new State Attorney's Office.

County Administrator Harris stated that the service was required but exceeded his authority to approve.

**Commissioner Wainwright moved to approve 3-phase electrical service at the new State Attorney's Office. Commissioner Gamble seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

**The fifth additional agenda item** was to discuss, with possible Board action, the Tourist Development Council budget.

Chairman Bashaw stated that the Board had requested additional time in the last regular meeting to review the TDC's budget. However, the Board had not received any additional information from or held any meetings with the TDC. He stated that the Vice-Chairman of the TDC had contacted him and asked for no changes to the budget, leaving \$50,000 in the budget for administrative services. Chairman Bashaw stated that since the last regular meeting, the Chamber of Commerce had withdrawn from the day-to-day operations and administrative services with the TDC. As a result, the Chairman had asked Dr. Jackson if he would agree to accept administrative services for the TDC with the older budgeted amount of \$20,000. Dr. Jackson had responded that he would accept the services.

County Attorney Prevatt stated that there would need to be some changes to the proposed budget if the Board went ahead with having the Economic Development Director (Dr. Jackson)

oversee the TDC's administrative services. He suggested moving postage, travel, and per diem into the advertising and promotion costs or grants.

Discussion continued on how to shift the proposed budget figures.

County Attorney Prevatt suggested that in the first cent expenditures, the Board shift the Travel and Per Diem budget of \$1,200 and \$2,000 Postage budget into the Advertising and Promotion line item (for a new total of \$4,700) and shift the Printing/Binding budget of \$4,800 into the Grants line item (for a new total of \$64,800). Out of the second cent expenditures, he suggested that the Board shift \$29,700 of the TDC Administrative Services budget and the \$600 in Office Supplies into the Tourism Development line item (for a new total of \$40,300).

Commissioner Wainwright asked if the County would be transferring funds directly to the Department of Economic Development or creating a separate line item for Administrative Services with the Department. County Attorney Prevatt replied that it would be a housekeeping issue, but he suggested creating a line item for Administrative Services in the Department of Economic Development budget.

County Attorney Prevatt stated that the Board could broaden the number of line items required for the TDC's budget after the current fiscal year, and in a way the County was starting over with the TDC.

Mr. Dick Calvitt, Vice-President of the Tourist Development Council, was concerned that the Board did not value the roles of the TDC or the Chamber of Commerce and were instead relying upon Dr. Jackson and County Attorney Prevatt, neither of whom were on the TDC, to make decisions on behalf of the TDC. He stated that the Board of County Commissioners was not listening to the Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Development Council's proposals and did not

value their input. Mr. Calvitt asked where the TDC's office would be located. Chairman Bashaw replied that the TDC would be located wherever Dr. Jackson's office was located, but meetings could be held in the Passenger Depot as was currently done.

Mr. Calvitt asked who would handle the telephone calls, visitors, and functions for the TDC. Chairman Bashaw replied that it would be through Dr. Jackson's office.

Chairman Bashaw stated that when the Chamber of Commerce withdrew their administrative oversight of the TDC, they did not even have to take down a sign, as people didn't really know where the TDC was located. He added that if Dr. Jackson's department took over the administrative oversight of the TDC, there were be a definitive website.

Discussion ensued on the administrative functions of Dr. Jackson's office and the County as they related to the TDC.

Chairman Bashaw stated that the Chamber of Commerce had withdrawn from the administrative oversight of the TDC, and the Board of County Commissioners was now trying to fill that void. Dr. Jackson had agreed to take over that oversight, if the Board made that decision.

Mr. Calvitt stated that it was not right that Dr. Jackson and County Attorney Prevatt were making decisions for the Tourist Development Council.

County Attorney Prevatt clarified that he had held no discussions with Dr. Jackson related to taking over administrative services of the TDC, and he only did what he had been directed by the Chairman or the Board. He had no vote and would do whatever the Board directed him.

Mr. Calvitt asked if the Board had directed the County Attorney to work on the TDC's budget. County Attorney Prevatt replied that Chairman Bashaw had asked him to modify the

TDC's budget to fit the proposed changes, but he unfortunately had not brought the proposal with him to the meeting and thus had to work out the figures in the middle of the meeting.

Mr. Calvitt asked if the Board would be voting on the tabled motion to accept the TDC's budget. Chairman Bashaw replied that things had changed when the Chamber of Commerce withdrew from administering the TDC's budget.

Mr. Calvitt stated that the Chamber of Commerce's withdrawal of administering the TDC's budget had nothing to do with the TDC's budget. Chairman Bashaw replied that it had everything to do with the TDC's budget, and he had been waiting for direction from the TDC to proceed.

Mr. Calvitt stated that he had directed Chairman Bashaw to submit the TDC budget as originally proposed. Chairman Bashaw replied that he had placed the item as an additional agenda item based upon Mr. Calvitt's request.

Chairman Bashaw clarified that the Chamber of Commerce had submitted their resignation to administer the Tourist Development Council's budget and services, leaving a void that the County was now trying to fill.

Mr. Calvitt stated that the TDC's budget was before the Board and asked that it be approved.

Chairman Bashaw stated that the TDC was a subsidiary board of the County, and the Board of County Commissioners was authorized to approve and make changes to the TDC's budget if they so desired.

Discussion ensued on whether the County's proposed budget changes to the Tourist Development Council's budget would keep them within compliance with the Board's Tourist Development Plan.

**Commissioner Wainwright moved to have the Department of Economic Development handle administrative services for the Tourist Development Council, and modifying the TDC's budget to compensate (by shifting, out of the first cent expenditures, the Travel and Per Diem budget of \$1,200 and \$2,000 Postage budget into the Advertising and Promotion line item for a new total of \$4,700; shifting the Printing/Binding budget of \$4,800 into the Grants line item for a new total of \$64,800; and out of the second cent expenditures, shifting \$29,700 of the TDC Administrative Services budget and the \$600 in Office Supplies into the Tourism Development line item for a new total of \$40,300). Commissioner Fleming seconded and stated that he had no problem with Dr. Jackson handling administrative services for the TDC.** Mr. Scott asked the total amount of County funding to Dr. Jackson's department for administrative costs, if the Board approved the motion currently on the floor. It was determined that with the \$30,000 approved in budget hearings, the total would be \$50,000. Commissioner Gamble pointed out that it could have been \$80,000 if the TDC's original budget proposal had been accepted. Chairman Bashaw stated that a budget amendment could be made if the Board wished to reconcile Dr. Jackson's administrative services, or the Board could carry on with the current amount. County Administrator Harris clarified that a motion had not been tabled in the previous meeting as suggested in the present meeting, but instead had been withdrawn at the previous meeting to allow further research. **The motion to transfer the TDC's administrative duties to the Department of Economic Development, and modifying the TDC's budget to compensate, carried unanimously.**

**The sixth additional agenda item** was a request to authorize bidding and seal for road improvements requiring the same.

**Commissioner Gamble moved to authorize bidding sand seal for road improvements requiring the same. Commissioner Wainwright seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

**The eighteenth item on the agenda** was public concerns and comments. (Filling out of Comment Card requested, and forwarded to Chairman or County Administrator. Speakers from the audience will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak following recognition by the Chairman and must speak from the podium – one (1) trip to podium).

There was one public comment:

Mr. Robert Ford discussed earlier comments about the Douglass Center Committee (aka Douglass Alumni) taking over the Douglass Center. He pointed out that he had petitioned the County on numerous occasions to board up broken windows, install additional security, and renovate the cafeteria at a cost of more than \$200,000. However, little had actually been carried out and the Board had instead moved the cafeteria funding to another project.

**The nineteenth item on the agenda** was Administrator's comments and information.

County Administrator Harris had nothing to discuss.

**The twentieth item on the agenda** was Board Members' inquiries, requests, and comments.

Chairman Bashaw stated that he had no animosity toward the Chamber of Commerce or Tourist Development Council and only wished that the TDC become compliant to the Board's needs.

No other Board members had anything to discuss.

**The twenty-first item on the agenda** was informational items.

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There were none.

**Commissioner Wainwright moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sessions seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_, DC  
BARRY A. BAKER  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

\_\_\_\_\_  
JASON BASHAW, CHAIRMAN  
SUWANNEE COUNTY BOARD OF  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS