

March 21, 2017  
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 Ricky Gamble; Commissioner Don Hale; Commissioner Clyde Fleming; Commissioner Larry Sessions; and Commissioner Ronnie Richardson. Ken Williams, Chief Deputy Clerk of Finance; Eric Musgrove and Ms. Logan Woods, Deputy Clerks; Randy Harris, County Administrator; and James W. Prevatt, Jr., County Attorney, were also present.

Chairman Gamble called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and asked Commissioner Hale to lead the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**The first item on the agenda** was to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2017 Regular Board Meeting.

**Commissioner Sessions moved to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2017 Regular Board Meeting as written. Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Gambled noted that consent agenda items 5 and 8 were pulled for discussion.

**CONSENT:**

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

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

3/21/2017

<b>FUND</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>
001	GENERAL FUND	\$ 737,862.33
112	RESERVE-CAPTIAL PROJECTS	
116	FINE AND FORFEITURE	\$ 47,847.77
117	911 ADDRESSING FUND	\$ 7,018.98
118	STATE ATTORNEYS OFFICE	\$ 10,153.75
119	MUNICIPAL SERVICES FUND	\$ 9,224.15
120	LAW ENFORCEMENT	\$ 10,040.00
121	NARCOTICS CONTROL	
122	FIRE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 27,794.94
126	EMS GRANT FUND	\$ 2,211.42
128	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 7,454.73
129	LAW EDUCATION	
131	TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	\$ 612.91
140	ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$ 179,034.34
145	ROAD AND BRIDGE CONST. & PAVING	
171	LIBRARY FUND	\$ 190,546.44
172	RECREATION FUND	\$ 48,767.29
181	LOCAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	\$ 25,685.00
251	RENOVATIONS / DEBT SERVICE	
301	VOTING EQUIPMENT FUND	
351	RENOVATIONS / CONSTRUCTION	
402	SOLID WASTE COLLECTION	\$ 93,871.15
403	SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	\$ 50,786.27
404	SUW CTY WATER PLANT	\$ 80.00
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,448,991.47</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 03/21/17*

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
City of Live Oak	3/9/2017	175239	\$16,343.80	Utilities
Florida Power and Light	3/9/2017	175241	\$17,738.52	Electric utilities
Watchguard Video	3/9/2017	175271	\$10,040.00	2 camera systems/sheriff office
Lewis Walker Roofing	3/9/2017	175272	\$10,000.00	SHIP home repairs/Hogenauer
Darabi and Associates	3/16/2017	175366	\$10,951.62	Consulting engineering services
Waste Management	3/16/2017	175378	\$28,768.72	Waste disposal
Stryker Sales	3/16/2017	175379	\$16,713.24	Power Pro stretcher/fire-rescue
BW Helevenston and Sons	3/16/2017	175394	\$10,000.00	Commission on county insurance
McInnis Services	3/16/2017	175428	\$286,634.52	State Attorney building #11/final
Little and Williams	3/16/2017	175463	\$96,555.47	Dowling Park Library # 11 SHIP down payment and
Hill Law Associates	3/16/2017	175470	\$15,685.00	closing/Renedo
			<u><u>\$519,430.89</u></u>	

**The third item on the agenda** was to adopt a resolution authorizing Suwannee Parks & Recreation to apply for and administer a Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP) grant for improvements at the Charles Springs Boat Ramp in Suwannee County. **(Resolution No. 2017-28)**

**The fourth item on the agenda** was to adopt a resolution supporting Enterprise Florida. **(Resolution No. 2017-29)**

**The fifth item on the agenda** was to approve a SHIP Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP).

This item was pulled for discussion.

**The sixth item on the agenda** was to approve accepting marketing and communication funding in the amount of \$9,600 from the Team Florida Marketing Partnership Co-Op.

**The seventh item on the agenda** was to approve a Change Order with Music Construction, Inc. for work associated with Central Road. Funded by FDOT. **(Agreement No. 2017-35-01)**

**The eighth item on the agenda** was to approve extended hours of operations at Solid Waste Collection sites.

This item was pulled for discussion.

**The ninth item on the agenda** was to authorize staff to apply for a grant/grants with Suwanee River Water Management District for construction of the wastewater treatment plant at the interchange of I-75 and CR 136.

**The tenth item on the agenda** was to request permission to apply for a grant through the E911 Rural County Grant Program in the amount of \$56,238.23 for the yearly maintenance of the 911 System including 911 System Manufacturer Support, Database Support, GIS Mapping Display Support, GIS Map Generation Support, and Logging Recorder Support.

**Commissioner Fleming moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 2-4, 6-7, and 9-10. Commissioner Richardson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

**The fifth item on the agenda** was to approve a SHIP Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP).

County Attorney Prevatt stated that the basic outline of the Plan was acceptable, but there were a few scriveners' errors that needed to be corrected first. He suggested that the Board approve the Plan with scriveners' errors corrected.

**Commissioner Sessions moved to approve a SHIP Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP) with scriveners' errors corrected. Commissioner Richardson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

**The eighth item on the agenda** was to approve extended hours of operations at Solid Waste Collection sites.

Commissioner Richardson asked when the extended hours would be enacted. County Administrator Harris replied that the change in hours would be implemented in the next two months, after sufficient time to inform the public.

Commissioner Richardson noted his objection to making universal changes to all collection sites, stating that it would harm law-abiding citizens for the sake of a few people who were abusing it. He added that this was an example of the government's needs coming before that of its citizens.

Chairman Gamble asked if the Board had already approved the collection site closings. County Administrator Harris replied that a previous Board had already adopted the change to close the collection site gates and this item was merely to extend the hours that the sites were open, as discussed at the Board workshop the previous week.

Discussion ensued on closing the gates and the action of a previous Board.

Commissioner Richardson suggested revisiting the closing of the collection sites and instituting changes on a case-by-case basis, as his constituents did not want to see the collection sites closed when an attendant was not on duty.

Discussion continued on the issue and that responsible citizens could schedule their trash hauls around when the collection sites would be open. A suggestion was also made to go ahead

with the changes, with the understanding that the Board could revisit the issue if it did not work out.

County Administrator Harris discussed the history of trash collection and removal, and believed that locking the gates would help the County financially.

Chairman Gamble stated that he had originally been opposed to the closing of the Peppers Site when an attendant was not on duty, but the solution had worked well and he had received no complaints since the changes had been made.

Commissioner Richardson did not believe that the Board needed to handle all collection sites in the same manner.

Commissioner Fleming understood that Commissioner Richardson's constituents had no problem with the current method of operation, and the Board could always rescind the closings if they did not work out.

Commissioner Sessions pointed out that the Board could not simultaneously upgrade the collection sites, and he foresaw problems with currently-clean collection sites being negatively impacted as the more troublesome sites were closed.

**Commissioner Sessions moved to extend hours for collection sites and deal with installing the gates at a later date. Commissioner Hale seconded, adding that he understood Commissioner Richardson's complaints.** Mr. John Koch, 18052 89<sup>th</sup> Road, stated that garbage disposal was changing and the Board should close the sites to stop citizens from stealing items that the County could recycle for some sort of profit. He stated that the citizens of the United States needed more discipline. Mr. Jim Ward asked what the new hours would be for the collection sites. County Administrator Harris replied that the collection sites would be open on Monday,

Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Commissioner Richardson believed that the government should not change something if it was working adequately, adding that extended hours made sense. He did not understand why the Board was not focusing on just the problem sites instead of dealing equally with all sites. **The motion to approve carried 4-1, with Commissioner Richardson opposed.**

**TIME SPECIFIC ITEMS:**

**The eleventh item on the agenda** was at 6:15 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard, to hold a public hearing to consider adoption of a resolution approving Special Permit Request No. SP-17-02-03 by Deerpound LLC and Rok North LLC, to be granted a special permit under Section 14.7 of the Suwannee County Land Development Regulations for Special Permits for Excavation & Mining Operations on property zoned Agriculture-1 (A-1).

Chairman Gamble opened the public hearing.

County Attorney Prevatt swore in all those wishing to speak.

Mr. Ronald Meek, Planning and Zoning Director, stated that the property in question was actually several parcels that equaled 98 acres. The properties were located south of Beachville on CR 49, more specifically in Section 7, Township 6 South, Range 15 East. The request was an expansion of an existing mining site that would then need to go before the State for final approval. Mr. Meeks discussed the application in some detail and then submitted the application as Composite Exhibit #1.

County Attorney Prevatt discussed the fact that there were two separate entities applying for the application, and had concerns with the name of the current mining operator. He was also concerned with the lack of an easement to allow egress and ingress.

Mr. Randy Burnett of 3917 NW 20<sup>th</sup> Drive, Gainesville, agent for the property owners, stated that the property in question was due north of the current mining operation. The current mining company was Denali Mining Company.

County Attorney Prevatt asked why there were not two applications because there were two separate entities involved. Mr. Meeks replied that although the entity names were different, they were both owned by the same person, and it was not felt necessary to have two basically identical applications.

County Attorney Prevatt asked about ingress and egress. Mr. Burnett replied that he was not sure of the answer.

County Attorney Prevatt asked about reclamation efforts according to not only the Department of Environmental Protection's rules, but also the County's. Mr. Burnett was not aware of the County's mine reclamation requirements above those of DEP.

County Attorney Prevatt asked Mr. Burnett if there were ongoing plans for expansion of the mine and the reclamation of the property. Mr. Burnett replied that the plans would be formed in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection.

County Attorney Prevatt asked when the mining operation had begun. Mr. Burnett replied that the mine had opened in 2009.

County Attorney Prevatt swore in County Administrator Harris, who had not been sworn in originally.



County Administrator Harris suggested that the Board place conditions upon the mine approval, and suggested paving the ingress and egress points to a certain point to reduce or eliminate the dust brought onto county roads from the site.

Discussion ensued on reclamation concepts and requirements once the mine was closed.

After questioning by Commissioner Hale, County Attorney Prevatt stated that the Board could waive duplicate applications, but should not waive the application fee. He added that the Land Development Regulations focused on the entity for ownership purposes, not the person who had actually set up both entities.

County Attorney Prevatt suggested that the best way to proceed legally was to withdraw the application and readvertise applications from both entities for a later Board meeting. He added that otherwise, his recommendation would be for the Board to deny the application and the applicants would have to wait a year to reapply.

**The applicants agreed to withdraw their application and reapply as two separate entities.**

Chairman Gamble closed the public hearing.

**The twelfth item on the agenda** was at 6:15 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard, to hold a public hearing to approve final budget amendments for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year.

Chairman Gamble opened the public hearing.

County Attorney Prevatt swore in all those wishing to speak.

Ken Williams, Chief Deputy Clerk of Finance, stated that final budget amendments were a normal part of closing the budget. He stated that three funds were impacted, mainly due to

unanticipated grant revenues: the State Attorney's Fund, Emergency Management Fund, and Road Department Fund.

Chairman Gamble opened the floor to public comments. There were none, and Chairman Gamble closed the floor to public comments.

**Commissioner Fleming moved to approve final budget amendments for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year. Commissioner Sessions seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Resolution No. 2017-30)**

**The thirteenth item on the agenda** was at 6:15 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard, to hold the second of two public hearings to consider the enactment of an ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium of 180 days on the acceptance of and processing of new applications for establishment of Medical Marijuana dispensing facilities and Medical Marijuana treatment centers.

Chairman Gamble opened the public hearing.

Jimmy Prevatt, County Attorney, stated that the first hearing had been held in February and there were no further changes to the proposed ordinance. He then read the ordinance's title into the record.

Chairman Gamble opened the floor to public comments.

County Attorney Prevatt swore in all those wishing to speak.

Mr. Jim Ward of 27476 29<sup>th</sup> Place, Branford, suggested that the County contact the State Legislators so that issues with the legalities of marijuana could be quickly resolved.

There being no further comments, Chairman Gamble closed the floor to public comments.

County Attorney Prevatt stated that there had been seven different proposals at the State level to set regulations for marijuana, but nothing finalized yet.

**Commissioner Richardson moved to adopt an ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium of 180 days on the acceptance of and processing of new applications for establishment of Medical Marijuana dispensing facilities and Medical Marijuana treatment centers. Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Ordinance No. 2017-01)**

**The fourteenth item on the agenda** was at 6:15 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard, to hold the first of two public hearings to consider the enactment of an ordinance adopting Florida-Friendly Use of Fertilizer on Urban Landscapes.

Chairman Gamble opened the public hearing.

County Attorney Prevatt swore in all those wishing to speak.

County Administrator Harris stated that the hearings were part of a requirement set by the State in 2016 for an ordinance to be enacted by all counties by July of 2017. The proposed ordinance was written by the State, and set minimum requirements for the counties to adopt. The goal of the proposed ordinance appeared to be to help clean up some of the State's springs, rivers, and water resources.

Commissioner Richardson reiterated that the County could not make the ordinance more lenient, but could make it more stringent. He believed that this was yet another attempt by the government to regulate its citizens because of a few people who were not following the current laws. Commissioner Richardson added that the worst offenders were exempt from the proposed ordinance or did not reside in Suwannee County.

County Attorney Prevatt clarified that the exemption was specifically for farmers, as Florida was a right-to-farm state.

Commissioner Richardson believed that Suwannee County was not contributing to the statewide problem, and it was unfair for its citizens to be penalized. He was opposed to overregulation such as he saw in this proposed ordinance, as ordered by the State.

Chairman Gamble did not believe that commercial fertilizer was a problem in Suwannee County because of its cost, and operators would only do the minimum amount because excess fertilizer would mean unnecessary expenses to businesses. He believed that the State was behind the times, as commercial operators were already using best management practices.

County Administrator Harris stated that he had seen the State's focus on single pollution issues, including septic tanks, horse farms, and dairy farms. He pointed out that the local Code Enforcement Officers would not be required to enforce the law, and it was up to the individual counties as to whether enforcement was mandated. County Administrator Harris then discussed problems with the local topography.

Chairman Gamble noted that the City of Valdosta had inadvertently released (from their water treatment plant) far more nitrates into the Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers in the last few months than what would be created in all of Suwannee County in a year.

Commissioner Sessions stated that the focus of the ordinance appeared to be for urban areas, not rural ones like Suwannee County.

Chairman Gamble opened the floor to public comments.

Ms. Katherine Allen, Suwannee County Extension Director, stated that her office provided presentations on best management practices, as well as testing of sites. She discussed some of the

many services provided by the Extension Office related to soils. Ms. Allen was also concerned with the proposed ordinance's impact on summer Extension Office programs.

Commissioner Richardson pointed out the prohibited times for spreading fertilizers listed in the proposed ordinance.

Sharon Higgins, 21256 49th Drive, Lake City, questioned the State's passing of yet another law that affected everyone instead of focusing on the trouble areas. She was concerned with government overreaching and then discussed some questions she had with the proposed ordinance. Mrs. Higgins suggested that the Board research the issue further before making a decision.

Chairman Gamble closed the floor to public comments.

Chairman Gamble asked if the requirements within the ordinance could be reduced. County Attorney Prevatt replied that the proposed ordinance was the bare minimum that the State would allow, and nothing below that minimum level could be adopted.

Mr. John Koch asked what the State would do to the County if the County did not approve the ordinance. County Administrator Harris replied that the issue was brought up in discussion about grants, and added that there was no mandate to enforcement the ordinance. There was a mandate, however, for the County to adopt the ordinance.

Chairman Gamble closed the public hearing, noting that this was the first of two public hearings on the matter.

**COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS:**

**The fifteenth item on the agenda** was to discuss plans for the 176<sup>th</sup> paving project.

Commissioner Richardson asked if there was ever a request brought before the previous Board to change 176<sup>th</sup> Road in McAlpin from a paved to a graded road, or of otherwise rebuilding it. No one could remember the issue coming before the Board in the last couple of years.

Commissioner Richardson discussed the price it would cost to rebuild 176<sup>th</sup> Road and why one commissioner had the power to change the status of a County road from paved to graded. He pointed out that a former commissioner had apparently done so with 176<sup>th</sup> Road, and discussed the problems caused by changing the status of the road. Commissioner Richardson stated that one commissioner should not have the power to change roads at a whim.

Chairman Gamble agreed that if it took three commissioners to approve paving a road, it should take three commissioners to unpave a road.

Commissioner Richardson stated that he wanted 176<sup>th</sup> Road repaved, and was working toward it.

Chairman Gamble noted that the County was applying for grants with the Department of Transportation to pave 176<sup>th</sup> Road.

Commissioner Richardson added that 176<sup>th</sup> Road was not the only road that had been torn up instead of being rebuilt, as 196<sup>th</sup> Street had been so handled as well.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY ITEMS:**

There were none.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**The sixteenth item on the agenda** was Staff Reports.

Mr. James Sommers, Public Safety Director, updated the Board on the near-completion of the McAlpin station, as well as operations from the north side of the railroad in Live Oak. He added that fire calls were up due to the brushfire season.

Commissioner Fleming thanked Chief Sommers for stationing a rescue unit on the north side of the railroad tracks, adding that the citizens felt more secure because of it.

Commissioner Richardson thanked Chief Sommers for his willingness to move units to fit the public's needs. He then asked about agreements with Gilchrist and Lafayette Counties for service in the south end of the County. Chief Sommers replied that there were agreements in place with surrounding counties, but they were not usually used because of the even more rural nature of those counties; it was normally quicker for a Suwannee County unit to respond.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**The seventeenth item on the agenda** was a discussion from a representative of Shands Live Oak Regional Medical Center on the provision of healthcare in Suwannee County.

This item was pulled for discussion at a later date.

**The eighteenth item on the agenda** was to discuss space needs at the Sheriff's Operations Center.

Sheriff Sam St. Johns stated that the Sheriff's Criminal Division Building had been completed in 1972, and even with upgrades since he had become Sheriff three months before, there was a need for a replacement structure. He recommended that the Board place a new Sheriff's Office building in their long-term plans. Sheriff St. Johns also discussed an audit regarding access to criminal justice databases, which the Sheriff's Office would not pass this year due to numerous

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changes to the requirements since the last audit. He discussed several needs relating to upgrading access to criminal justice databases, mentioning that he had been in contact with USA Software, SmartCop, and ProPhoenix software companies to upgrade the Sheriff's Office software. Sheriff St. Johns stated that he would like to use any excess funds his office had at the end of the year to put into a new software system. He also noted a possible need to upgrade his radio system.

Commissioner Fleming asked what radio system the Sheriff would use. Sheriff St. Johns replied that it would be the same system as currently used by Fire Rescue.

Commissioner Fleming asked about the SmartCop software. Sheriff St. Johns replied that one of his original goals upon being elected Sheriff was to upgrade the software used by the Sheriff's Office, and SmartCop, USA Software, ProPhoenix, or some other related software would streamline the process and save money in the long run.

Chairman Gamble asked about the audit mentioned by the Sheriff. Sheriff St. Johns replied that if the County did not get into compliance with the audit, the County would lose access to all state and national criminal justice databases. This would basically shut down the Sheriff's Office and force Suwannee County to access the information from other counties.

Mr. Travis Meeks, Sheriff's Dispatch Supervisor, stated that the current software owner, Mike Lawrence and Associates, had not complied with all the FDLE and FBI requirements set after the last audit.

Commissioner Sessions made it clear that the major issue with the criminal justice software was security.

County Administrator Harris stated that he had discussed the Capital Improvement Plan with the Sheriff, noting that the current Sheriff's Criminal Division Building needed replacement



in the near future. The cost for a new building of approximately 10,000 square feet would be about \$1 million.

Chairman Gamble stated that he would like for the Board to discuss its long-term Capital Improvement in an upcoming Board meeting.

**The nineteenth item on the agenda** was to discuss, with possible Board action, salary compression resulting from increase in minimum wage.

Chairman Gamble stated that the issue had been discussed in the recent past, but it was never approved. The discussion was to increase rates of pay by \$0.05 per hour for a total cost of about \$30,000.

County Administrator Harris reiterated that the increase would cost approximately \$30,000 per year.

Chairman Gamble believed that it would be better to adjust the changes yearly instead of dealing with large compression later on. He then asked if the \$30,000 only related to Board employees. Chief Deputy Williams replied that the amount was only for Board employees, not including Constitutional employees.

Discussion ensued on the \$0.05 increase to all employees.

Commissioner Richardson suggested limiting the raises to shift supervisors or whatever rate saw a compression, and deal with the others during budget time.

County Administrator Harris stated that there had not been a uniform approach to pay raises, and for many years there had been no raises. The Board eventually moved to tiered raises and then \$0.25 per hour for everyone, or nearly everyone.

Mr. Bo Hancock, 6135 Wiggins Road, stated that the County was not looking at \$30,000 in expenses this year, since the fiscal year was halfway done. He suggested employees other than department heads and commissioners receive the pay raise, noting that there were many fantastic employees that should be rewarded for their work.

Chairman Gamble pointed out for the record that the County Commissioners could not vote themselves pay raises, at any rate.

Mr. Greg Scott, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the minimum wage increases were based upon a cost of living. He suggested that seasonal employees be given a pay raise also.

Commissioner Richardson stated that he had no problem giving a \$0.05 raise for pertinent employees, but would rather see a process that could be used for ensuing years instead of discussing it each year.

Discussion ensued on the issue of compression and future increases in the minimum wage.

**Commissioner Richardson moved to increase salaries of all employees by \$0.05 per hour, including seasonal employees but excluding department heads, effective the next full pay period. Commissioner Sessions seconded, and after brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

**The twentieth item on the agenda** was to discuss, with possible Board action, chip seal road improvements.

County Administrator Harris stated that the chip seal program would be a valuable asset to the County if the County could set aside the appropriate annual funding. He suggested that the Board begin reviewing the process and potential funding sources. County Administrator Harris added that the County already had most of the equipment needed for chip sealing, although there

might be a need for another grader, dump truck, and also a large roller. The process of chip sealing roads would be a long-term project.

Commissioner Sessions agreed that chip sealing would be a long-term process, and suggested setting a number of miles to chip seal every year.

Chairman Gamble agreed with Commissioner Sessions' comments, adding that other counties had successfully used the chip seal for various roads. He did not want to slow down road projects, but realized that there would be more demand upon the County's roads due to an increase in population. Chairman Gamble suggested a plan of roadwork chip sealing based upon the needs of each district.

Commissioner Richardson stated that he had researched the issue in great depth, and saw it as a way to reduce the amount of dust on certain roads. He was concerned with heavy equipment on roads that were not designed for the weight.

Discussion ensued on the ability of some roads to bear heavy weight.

Chairman Gamble suggested that chip seal would probably work best in subdivisions and more residential areas with limited heavy equipment.

Commissioner Richardson suggested weight limits on chip sealed roads to limit the damage done to them by heavy vehicles.

Commissioner Sessions stated that some roads needed more work besides chip seal, especially the correction of water drainage issues.

Mr. Ward asked the composition of the liquid used for chip sealing. County Administrator Harris replied that he did not know the specific chemical makeup, but he had used the material in previous counties for nearly twenty years and there had been no issues with it. He added that he

could get technical schematics to Mr. Ward at a later date, but the chip seal was hardened within a day and impermeable at that point.

County Administrator Harris stated that when the chip seal was applied correctly, it did not fail. Most failures had come about because roadbeds had not been properly prepared.

Discussion ensued on funding sources for the chip seals.

**The Board agreed to bring back recommendations for funding sources and a method of selecting roads for chip sealing at a later meeting.**

**The twenty-first item on the agenda** was to discuss the rules for public comment during Commission meetings.

**Commissioner Richardson moved to remove the three-minute limit and one trip per person limit to public comments in Board meetings.** Commissioner Richardson recognized that the reason for the limits was because of some citizens who had monopolized the Board's time in past meetings, but did not want to intimidate citizens from speaking their mind on any issue. Commissioner Sessions stated that there were certain out-of-county citizens who would monopolize the Board's time, and this was the reason a previous Board had set the time limits. Commissioner Fleming asked how much of a time limit Commissioner Richardson was suggesting. Commissioner Richardson suggested that it would be up to the Chairman's discretion as to what the time limit would be. Chairman Gamble stated that he had no problem allowing people to talk more than the allotted time if there was a limited number of the public speaking. However, in some meetings, there were dozens of people who wished to talk on the same topic, basically repeating themselves, and there needed to be something in place to limit the time spent in meetings. Commissioner Richardson reiterated that the Chairman had the authority to moderate

discussion for the sake of order. Discussion ensued on the various problems at some meetings attended by large groups of people, all wishing to speak. Chairman Gamble stated that he would like to retain the three-minute speaking limit to show that it was a decision of the entire Board, not just the Chairman. Mr. Ward stated that the meetings had been flowing well and the time limits were guidelines to be enacted when necessary. Mr. Hancock stated that he was originally upset when the original time limits had been enacted, but then he realized that time limits were necessary to stop people from talking for hours. **Commissioner Richardson withdrew his motion to remove time limits for public comments.**

**The twenty-second item on the agenda** was to discuss the potential for requiring permits for demolition of Mobile Homes.

Commissioner Richardson stated that he wanted people to take pride in their property, and mobile home demolition sometimes allowed debris to blow into neighboring properties. He suggested demolition permits for mobile homes.

County Administrator Harris stated that the County could, based upon the wording of the current ordinance, require demolition permits for structures in general, which would also include mobile homes. He stated that now that the County had set up a Magistrate for Code Enforcement, there was a mechanism to force citizens to complete the work. County Administrator Harris added that a recent Magistrate hearing had worked well to solve a recurring Code Enforcement problem.

County Attorney Prevatt stated that the current time limit of thirty-six months for demolition was far too long, and suggested that six months would be a better deadline for demolition work. He agreed with County Administrator Harris' assessment that the current codes

allowed demolition permits for mobile homes, even if the Code Enforcement Officer did not believe it to be so.

Discussion ensued on mobile homes and requirements from the County's current laws.

Commissioner Richardson asked about how to handle a tin shed purchased from Lowe's. County Attorney Prevatt replied that the shed would be labeled as a structure, but there were certain subsections in the Land Development Regulations that addressed the issue in further detail.

Further discussion ensued on the situation and that the Board should clean up the Land Development Regulations.

**County Administrator Harris agreed to clean up the wording of the Land Development Regulations.**

**The twenty-third item on the agenda** was to discuss, with possible Board action, adding Good Friday to the Board of County Commissioners' holiday list in order to be consistent with other Elected Official Offices.

Chairman Gamble stated that the Board was the only County entity open on Good Friday, as all Constitutional Officers were closed then. He asked for suggestions from the Board.

Commissioner Fleming suggested that the Board employees be off when other government officials were off.

Chairman Gamble suggested removing the half a day off before Thanksgiving and give employees Good Friday off instead.

County Administrator Harris stated that there were few telephone calls or customers on Good Friday, because the public believed that the County Offices were closed just like the other Constitutional offices.

**Commissioner Fleming moved to allow Board employees to be off all day on Good Friday and remove the half-day off on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Commissioner Richardson seconded, and after brief discussion that it would not impact the budget in any way, the motion carried unanimously.**

**The twenty-fourth item on the agenda** was to discuss, with possible Board action, any issues associated with Perimeter Road.

County Administrator Harris stated that there was no business to discuss.

**The twenty-fifth 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 stated that there were small items being addressed at this point that had nothing to do with the structure itself, such as some curbing and other grounds work.

**The twenty-sixth item on the agenda** was Additional Agenda Items.

There were none.

**The twenty-seventh item on the agenda** was public concerns and comments. (Filling out of Comment Card requested, and forwarded to the Chairman or County Administrator. Individual speakers from the audience would be allowed three (3) minutes and a single representative or spokesperson would be allowed seven (7) minutes to speak following recognition by the Chairman and must speak from the podium – one (1) trip to podium).

Mr. Ward announced that meetings for the DEP Advisory Group for the Ichetucknee State Park would be held at the end of March. Mr. Ward expressed his belief that the County had not taken an interest in Ichetucknee Springs and River, although at least half of the property was in

Suwannee County and the Ichetucknee River was part of the boundary line between Suwannee and Columbia Counties.

Discussion ensued on Ichetucknee Springs and the Ichetucknee River.

Mrs. Jinnie Hancock of 6135 Higgins Road, Live Oak, stated that the Genealogical Society would be holding a fundraiser on March 31<sup>st</sup> and invited the commissioners and public to participate.

**The twenty-eighth item on the agenda** was Administrator's comments and information.

There were none.

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

Commissioner Richardson stated that folks in Branford had several events planned in the near future and thanked those involved for their work.

Commissioners Fleming and Hale had nothing to discuss.

Commissioner Sessions stated that the Fair had begun Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, and suggested that citizens attend the events. He added that the Governor would be in Live Oak on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Coliseum to discuss pertinent issues.

Chairman Gamble thanked the Fair Board for their work at the fair.

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March 21, 2017  
Regular Board Meeting  
Judicial Annex Building  
Live Oak, Florida

**The thirtieth item on the agenda** was Informational Items.

It was noted that the first meeting in April would be held on Monday, April 3, instead of Tuesday, April 4.

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

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
RICKY GAMBLE, CHAIRMAN  
SUWANNEE COUNTY BOARD OF  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS